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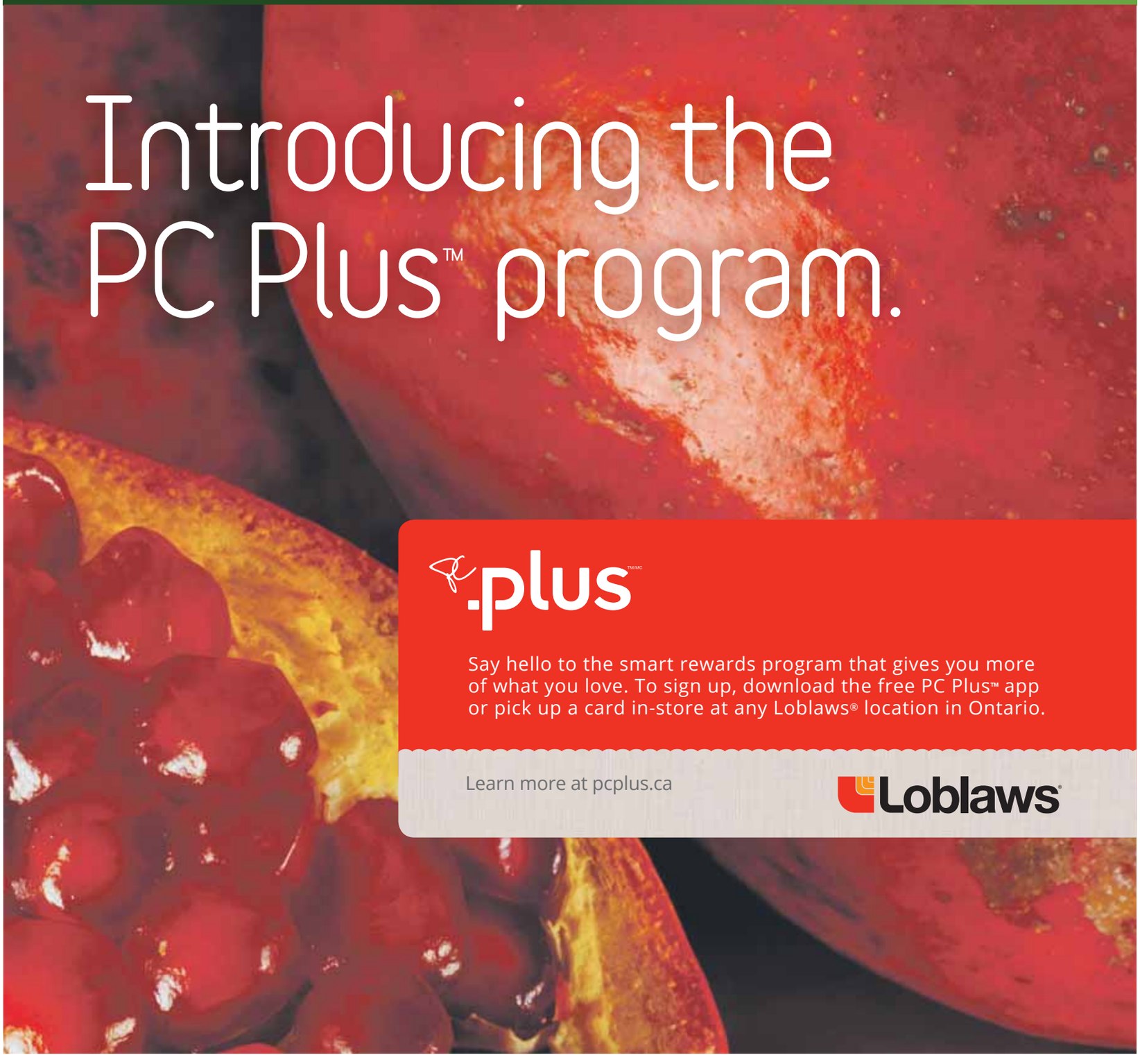
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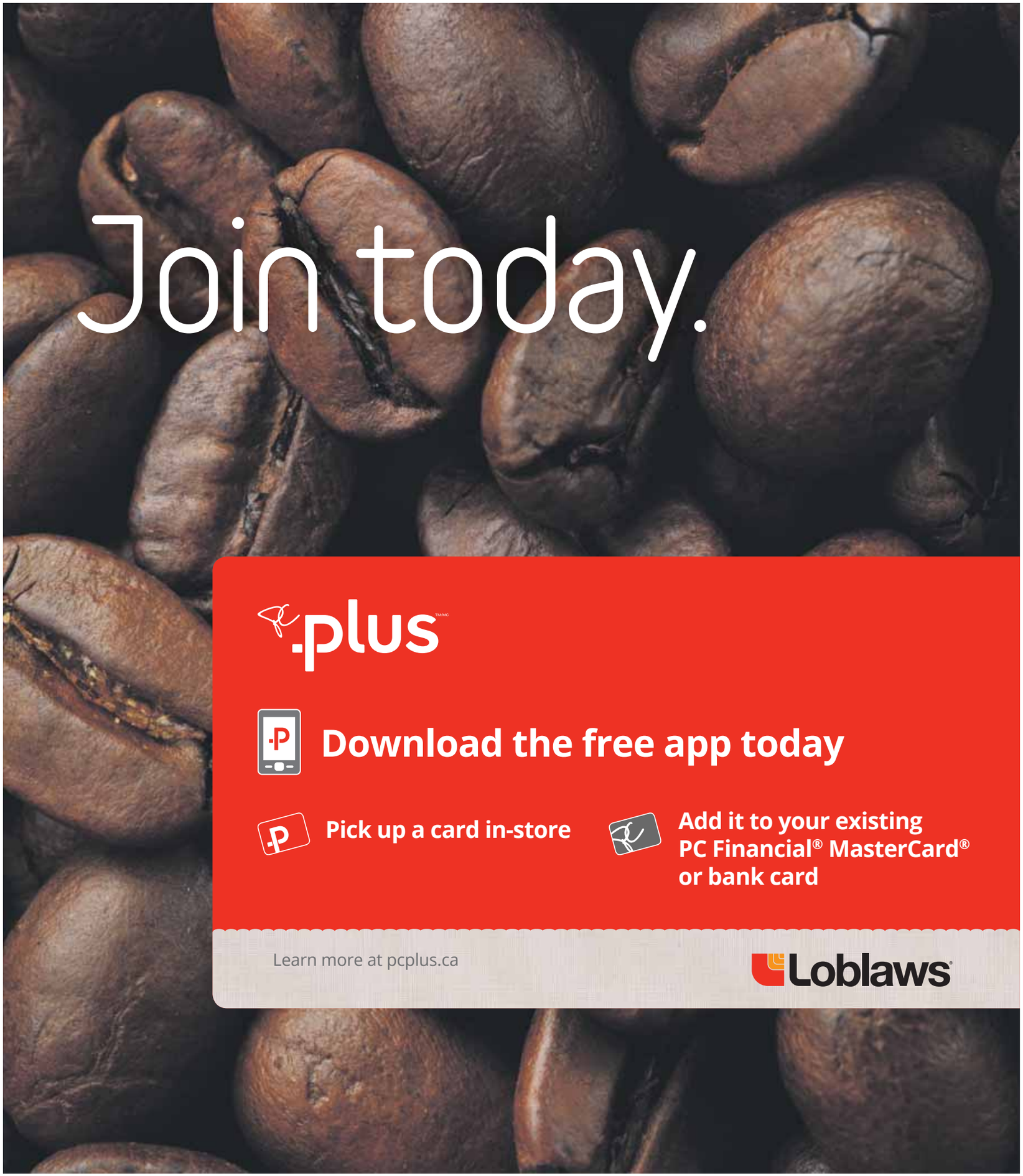
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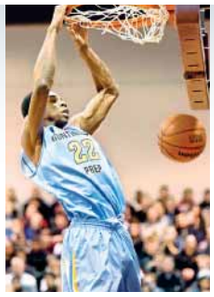


BIG MAN ON CAMPUS

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS JAYHAWKS HAVE TALL HOPES FOR ANDREW WIGGINS, THE HOOPS PHENOM FROM VAUGHAN

PAGE 53

Jump on the panda wagon

Set to open Saturday, the exhibition of fuzzy black-and-white bears at Toronto Zoo has been 40 years in the making PAGE 4

The reluctant tweeter

Who knew that Canadian space star Chris Hadfield once disdained social media? It took some arm-twisting from his sons to get him on the Internet PAGE 14

Leader of the pack

Are werewolves the new vampires? They certainly have better hair. In his novel Red Moon, Benjamin Percy's lycanthropes run wild in a post-apocalyptic world PAGE 23

NEWS WORTH SHARING.

'Say No!!! to Clear Bags!!!'

Dufferin County. Clear-trash-bag bylaw sparks uproar in Orangeville

You'd be forgiven if you thought you were at Toronto city hall: Emotions in placid Dufferin County, north of Toronto, reached a fever pitch last week, as some 70 protesters gathered at the Orangeville courthouse to rail against what they see as a fundamental violation of privacy: A bylaw requiring residents to dispose of garbage in clear plastic bags.

"There were a lot of bad feelings, a lot of people screaming at councillors," said Darren White, deputy mayor of Melancthon Township.

White says the bylaw, slated to come into effect on June 1, is an attempt to streamline garbage disposal across the county. It allows one small "privacy bag" per clear bag to conceal sensitive items, such as medical supplies and financial records. People may also dispose of their trash in a bin.

But some residents are outraged. "People are sensitive about their garbage. It is a very private issue for some people," said Sofie Weber, who founded a Facebook group called "Say No!!! to Clear Bags!!!"

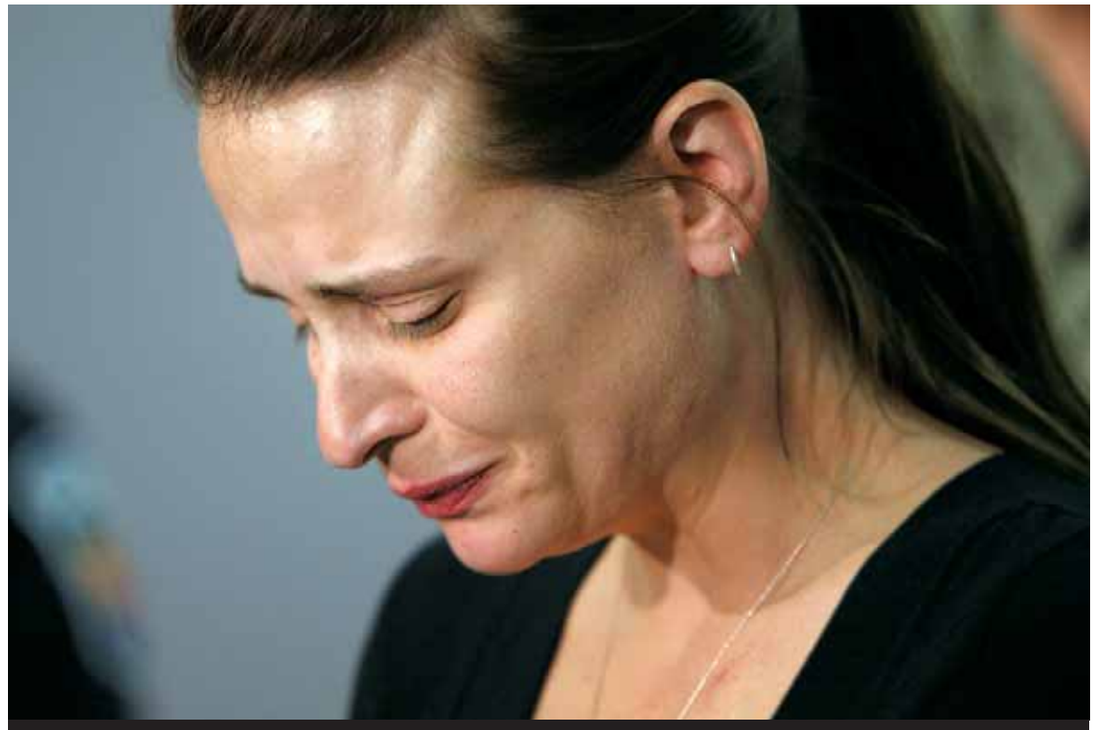
Orangeville Mayor Rob Adams says he has received hundreds of emails and phone calls from upset residents. "People already have large supplies of the black garbage bags.... Now they don't know what to do with those and have to go and buy clear bags," he said. "Residents didn't want to drive down the street looking at everyone else's garbage."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Rough-and-tumble politics

"I was called everything from a 'garbage nazi' to a communist. It was pretty intense."

Darren White, deputy mayor of Melancthon Township



'I LOVE YOU, TIM ... I'M BROKEN'

Sharlene Bosma laid her anguish bare in a tearful public statement in Ancaster, Ont., on Wednesday, one day after police revealed that her husband, Tim, who had been missing since May 6, is dead. Story, page 12. DAVE CHIDLEY/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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'You had me at hello'

$10M for U of T innovation complex

Things happen fast in Mississauga. University of Toronto president David Naylor walked into council at 9 a.m. Wednesday. An hour later, he left with a $10-million commitment to help build an innovation complex on the Mississauga campus.

The centre will cost $70 million to $100 million and, surprisingly, ground will be broken next week at the U of T Erindale site.

Council resoundingly endorsed the $10 million funding, which will be spread over 10 years.

A formal vote and decisions on where the city money will come from will occur shortly.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

In with the old

Toronto relics are vital signs

City of Toronto officials are scrambling to figure out how to meet unprecedented demand for old street-name signs.

The city has about 1,000 decommissioned signs in storage but has received 2,000 to 3,000 calls since plans to sell them became known. Officials had originally thought of charging $30 each on a first-come, first-served basis, but that was before they knew how popular the sale would be.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Old Toronto street markers
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Diagnosis: You're suffering from a long, drawn out Hangover

Ken Jeong, best known as Leslie Chow in The Hangover films, and Señor Ben Chang, from the comedy series Community, stopped by MuchMusic HQ on Wednesday to chat with NEW.MUSIC.LIVE host Scott Willats. The doctor turned actor, in town for the premier of The Hangover Part III, had the audience in stitches as he tried to diagnose VJ Lauren Toyota. PHOTO COURTESY OF MUCHMUSIC

Three-year probe nets 15 family members

Family first? Cops allege group generated millions in profits from 'illicit activities' and laundered the cash

Fifteen family members have been arrested in a three-year financial crime investigation headed by the RCMP.

Police allege the family generated $3.6 million in profits from "illicit activities," which they laundered through buying 41 properties, as well as three coffee shop franchises, one commercial fishing vessel and other small businesses.

The RCMP seized $2.7 million, including more than a dozen properties, six vehicles, a fishing vessel and 32 bank accounts.

Police also allege fraudulent documents were used to obtain more than $8.7 million in mortgages for properties, some of which were used to grow marijuana.

This investigation stemmed from a 2008 probe in which Peter Huu Hat Le of Toronto was charged with multiple drug offences, including producing and distributing marijuana, and exporting ecstasy and methamphetamine to the U.S.

Over a 10-year span, RCMP allege, people related to Le were associated with 27 marijuana growing operations in Ontario and two in B.C. Three family members also held real estate licences in Ontario, police said.

As a result of the most recent investigation, the family members are charged with multiple counts of possession of property obtained by crime, money laundering, obtaining credit through fraud, using forged documents and committing an indictable offence for the benefit of a criminal organization. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

All-Canadian

Of those charged, five are from Mississauga, three from Toronto, two from Niagara Falls and one each from Brampton, Winnipeg, Calgary, Vancouver and one of no fixed address.

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Connecting made easy:

Eats shoots and leaves: Linda Au-Yeung took this photo of Er Shun at the Chongqing Zoo in China in 2009, when she was there visiting family. The Toronto nurse said she can't wait to see the pandas at the zoo. LINDA AU-YEUNG/CONTRIBUTED

Pandas to debut after beary long wait

Is it something we said? Visitors are expected to flood Toronto Zoo to see the new additions, after a three-decade delay

It was early morning when veterinarian Simon Hollamby headed to the airport in Chengdu, China, for a flight back to Toronto.

It was no ordinary flight. Aboard the FedEx MD-11F plane with the Toronto Zoo vet was some precious cargo: Er Shun and Da Mao, two giant pandas on loan to Canada for a decade.

In specially designed crates, the pandas were hoisted into the jet, one near the back and one near the front — pandas are solitary animals.

It had been a whirlwind. Hollamby had just spent four days being ferried between the pandas' home zoos, attending "farewell ceremonies," handing out Toronto Zoo hats and T-shirts, shaking hands with dignitaries and getting ready for the 18-hour trip back to Canada.

He settled in for the nearly 13,000-kilometre journey to Pearson airport that had been decades in the making.

Former prime minister Pierre Trudeau, perhaps not wanting to be outdone by U.S. president Richard Nixon who landed a panda pair in 1972, visited China in 1973 and sent beavers as a gift in hopes of getting some fuzzy black-and-white bears in return.

William Rapley of the Toronto Zoo said there was such optimism that the zoo even constructed its first panda exhibit. "We were to get pandas," said Rapley. "But something went wrong ... and it never happened."

Rapley said there were overtures from prime minister Jean Chrétien and Paul Martin, who both worked on tightening relations with China. Things looked so positive in 2003 that the zoo in Chongqing even named a panda Mel Mel, after then-mayor Mel Lastman.

Canada's relations with China took a decidedly chilly turn when the Tories won a minority government in 2006 and panda acquisition efforts "flatlined."

"Then all of a sudden — boom." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Lines lines

In 1985 the Toronto Zoo got its first pandas, Qing Qing and Quan Quan, on loan for three months, blowing attendance records with over 1 million visitors.

- It would be 28 years before pandas were back.

Mixed-use project. Retail complex proposed for film-studio site

SmartCentres is definitely thinking outside the box — big box, that is.

The developer, whose initial proposal for a massive retail complex on Eastern Ave.'s Toronto Film Studio lands was rejected at the OMB, has come up with a new mid-rise plan that retains the film studio.

The company is venturing further into unchartered territory by building a mixed-use project around the studios that will incorporate a hotel, retail, office space and a potential campus.

It's the first time SmartCentres will build a development to "this extent or complexity," said Ornella Richichi, executive vice-president of land development. The company is predominantly known for its uniform retail plazas fronted by a family of large black and white penguins.

"We're hearing there was a need in the industry for the studios to reopen," said Richichi. "I think we realized that right now we're coming along at the right time."

The studios were closed in 2008 after SmartCentres purchased the property.

The proposal includes eight new buildings including a four- to eight-storey hotel fronting onto Lake Shore Blvd. E., as well as an adjacent multi-storey office tower. The plan for the seven-hectare site is to attract ancillary film companies that do post-production work or special effects.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

More acting, more music, more space

The Canadian Film Centre celebrates the official ground-breaking of the Northern Dancer Pavilion, the landmark building that will house multi-discipline programs. Located at Bayview and York Mills, the facility will expand the centre's film, television, digital media, screen acting and music program activities. SANDLER/CENTRAL IMAGE AGENCY

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Sweet! Free fruit for all has passersby stoked

Members of advocacy group Food Forward put a pop-up fruit stand on Queen Street next to City Hall and handed out free fruit on a warm Wednesday, to make the point that it's hard to find diverse food from carts and trucks. The group wants the city to relax the rules a little and let more and different food sellers onto the streets. The city says it needs to regulate the operators to guarantee health concerns are met. VINCE TALOTTA/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Wynne's mea culpa is met with scorn

'Hollow apology.'
Premier says she's sorry for cancelled power plants, but opposition parties aren't buying it

Premier Kathleen Wynne's apology for the $585-million decision to axe and move two power plants in Oakville and Mississauga didn't impress her rivals.

Opposition parties said her "I'm sorry" should have come in the legislature and not on TVO's The Agenda with host Steve Paikin. "It's a day late and a buck short," New Democrat Leader Andrea Horwath said Wednesday. "The money is already wasted ... now we need to make sure it never happens again."

Progressive Conservative energy critic Vic Fedeli called Wynne's remarks a "hollow apology" and called on the Liberal party to refund the money to taxpayers. "You're sorry you got caught," he shot at her during question period.

Wynne told reporters the apology came more than three months after she took power from her predecessor Dalton McGuinty, who ordered the plants cancelled because of community opposition before the 2011 election, because "the whole discussion has changed." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Summer election?

- Ontario voters are no closer to knowing whether they'll be sent to the polls this summer. NDP Leader Andrea Horwath says she hasn't made up her mind about whether to support the May 2 budget after meeting with Premier Kathleen Wynne.
- The budget addressed many NDP demands, but Horwath has added three more asks which she says will make the Liberals more accountable.

Chemo drug scare

Province increases oversight for drug-mixing firms

Ontario brought in rules Wednesday to close the gap in oversight over companies that mix drugs for hospitals, after just over 1,200 cancer patients in two provinces received diluted chemotherapy drugs.

For the first time, hospitals will only be able to purchase drugs from accredited, licensed or otherwise approved suppliers, the governing Liberals said. The Ontario College of Pharmacists will also be responsible for inspecting drug preparation facilities where pharmacists and pharmacy technicians work. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Woman hospitalized

Witnesses sought after pedestrian struck by car

Toronto police are appealing for witnesses after a 25-year-old woman was struck by a car while crossing the street early Wednesday. The woman was taken to hospital with life-threatening injuries after the collision at about 3 a.m. on Yonge Street at Glengrove Avenue West, south of Lawrence Avenue.

Police say the woman was a passenger on a northbound TTC bus, and that she got off the bus and attempted to cross the street. They say she was struck by a 2013 Audi being driven northbound by a 47-year-old man. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Renewable energy

Ontario ministers to look at resolving wind-farm conflicts

Four Ontario cabinet ministers have been given the job of devising ways to give local residents more say in where renewable energy projects like wind farms can be located. It's an urgent task for the Liberals, who were almost wiped out in rural Ontario in the last election. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Anti-wind farm groups from across Ontario protest in Simcoe Park on April 3. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

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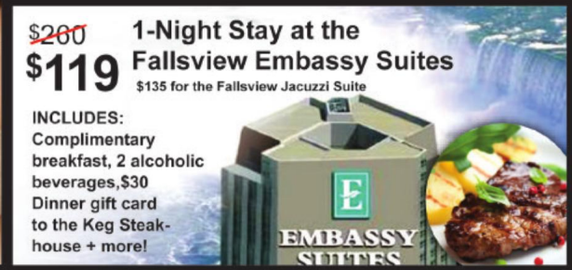
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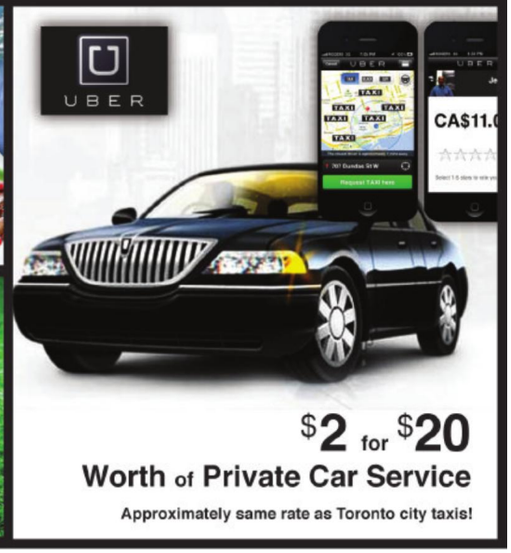

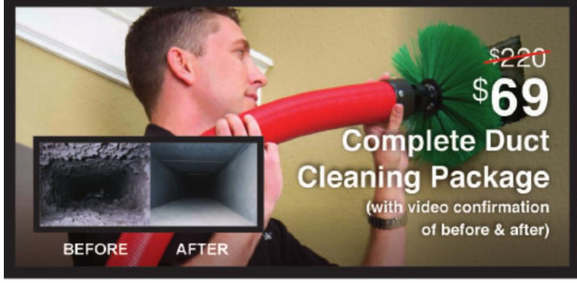

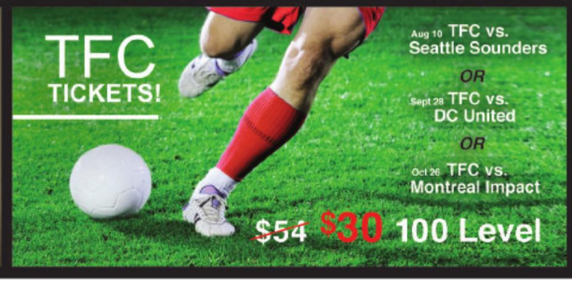

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Rescuers dig for survivors after cave-in

Indonesia. At least four dead after roof collapsed during safety training at U.S.-owned gold and copper mine

Mining activities at a giant U.S.-owned gold and copper mine in Indonesia were halted Wednesday as rescuers dug through a caved-in mine tunnel looking for about 25 trapped workers, the mine operator said.

Four bodies have been found and 10 miners rescued since the cave-in occurred Tuesday morning. Oxygen was being pumped into the tunnel as the search continued, but the status of the trapped workers was not known.

Meanwhile, hundreds of workers blocked a main road about three kilometres from the accident site in solidarity with the victims.

"We need a guarantee from the management for our safety in working underground," said Ronald Waromi, an organizer.

The company said 39 workers were inside a classroom in the tunnel undergoing safety training when the accident happened. Three escaped on their own. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"They were trapped and shouting for help ... but I couldn't do anything."

Kristian Sitepu, safety-training instructor, who was explaining emergency procedures when the accident happened

Workers gather in solidarity for colleagues who were trapped after the roof of a tunnel collapsed at a Freeport Indonesia mine in Mimika, Indonesia, on Wednesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York City

Columbia moves to change whites-only scholarship

Columbia University is seeking to change the terms of a fellowship that can only be awarded to white students.

The Lydia C. Roberts Graduate Fellowship stipulates that money be given only to "a person of the Caucasian race." Roberts left Columbia most of her estate in 1920 and created the fellowship, which also stipulates fellows must be from Iowa.

University officials filed court papers last week seeking to change the race provisions of the bequest. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Thailand

Boy, 3, dies after being left in hot car for 7 hours

Police say a 3-year-old boy has died in northeastern Thailand after a teacher left him in a car for seven hours on the child's second day of school.

A police officer said Wednesday that Suriyakan "Potter" Pakan was abandoned in a car that a teacher used to transport students.

The officer says the teacher thought all students had left the vehicle.

Police say the teacher will face charges of causing death by negligence. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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It's not easy getting greens

People push each other to get fresh produce as Greek market vendors hand out free food during a protest in Athens on Wednesday, as the union of Greek farmers markets went on strike. Protesters set up stands and started distributing vegetables to a fast-growing crowd. The market vendors are the latest professional group in Greece to protest a sweeping market liberalization drive demanded by rescue creditors. THANASSIS STAVRAKIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Look, we can explain

Anti-piracy firm caught using stolen photos

It's an embarrassing snafu for the company leading the fight to uncover, and punish, copyright infringement in Canada.

The Montreal-based company has changed images on its website upon learning several had been used without permission.

It was an awkward twist for Canipre, given that its name stands for Canadian Intellectual Property Rights Enforcement and that it offers "takedown services" on behalf of its clients.

The company says it did not know that its contracted web designer used the images improperly and learned only through an article on the Vice website. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Keystone XL

Tories boast about emissions record

When Stephen Harper speaks about Canada's energy prospects at a U.S. think-tank on Thursday, his pitch will likely mention that Canada is halfway to meeting its greenhouse-gas target. But the question remains: what will Canada do to make up the other half?

As the U.S. mulls whether to allow the Keystone XL pipeline, the federal Tories have taken out ads in U.S. publications and launched a website to promote its approach to reducing emissions.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Defying UN?

Canada evading compensation for torture: Amnesty

Canada is obstructing efforts to compensate Arab-Canadians who suffered torture in Syria — in part due to lapses by Canadian agencies — ignoring a recommendation from the UN, says Amnesty International (AI).

The government is "battling every ... application up and down the court system in as protracted and drawn-out a manner as possible," said Alex Neve, AI Canada's secretary general.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Senator repaid expenses, but not on his own dime

$90,000. Gift from PM's chief of staff raises even more accusations of corruption, cover-up

One government insider called the cash sent to Sen. Mike Duffy a gift between friends. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Less than a week after the Conservatives hailed Sen. Mike Duffy's "leadership" in repaying $90,000 in improper housing expenses, it turns out someone else made the bill go away.

Stephen Harper's chief of staff Nigel Wright personally covered Duffy's repayment, the Prime Minister's Office said on Wednesday — a transaction one insider described as a gift between friends that occurred without Harper's knowledge.

But the surprising transaction is raising questions about just how involved the Prime Minister's Office might have been with an independent audit into Duffy's expenses, and how it later portrayed that audit publicly.

The Senate's conflict-of-interest code explicitly prohibits senators from accepting any gift that "could reasonably be considered to relate to the senator's position." The Senate ethics officer refused to comment on the matter Wednesday, despite the fact gifts are supposed to be publicly disclosed.

The expense claims of Duffy and two other senators were examined by auditor Deloitte after they were accused of improperly claiming a housing allowance intended to compensate those who must maintain a secondary residence in Ottawa.

Deloitte noted in its report that Duffy stopped co-operating with the audit once the repayment was made. Now the government is refusing to provide any detailed breakdown of the expenses repaid by Duffy, keeping secret the full circumstances under which he was making claims.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Trust no one?

"We can't trust the Senate; obviously the Senate has no credibility on this. We can't trust the prime minister's word."

NDP ethics critic Charlie Angus, who called for a full investigation.

B.C. election. Pollsters explain their total failure

When it comes to filling out opinion surveys, respondents — particularly young ones — always seem to say they plan to vote, even if it's not true.

That was the explanation offered Wednesday by two of the nation's most prominent pollsters when asked how they, along with all their competitors, managed to get B.C.'s election forecasts so completely, utterly wrong.

Ipsos Reid public affairs vice-president Kyle Braid said 70 to 80 per cent of Canadians tend to express the intention to vote in federal elections, even though the actual turnout is closer to 60 per cent.

"All that does is point to the lack of reliability in asking that question, which says that we need a better way of figuring out who the voters are," said Braid.

Mario Canseco, vice-president of Angus Reid Public Opinion, said the trend is even more pronounced among voters aged 18 to 34 — who said they were twice as likely to vote NDP this election as Liberal.

Premier Christy Clark. THE CANADIAN PRESS

It won't be clear until Elections BC releases the results of its exit polls whether more young voters did indeed skip the ballot box on Tuesday. But historically, more than half of the province's electorate has been made up of voters over 55, and just 16 per cent of those aged 18 to 35.

"It's not necessarily that they changed their mind; it's just that they were not as big a component of the actual electorate who showed up to vote as we thought."

Canseco noted Angus Reid has correctly predicted the outcomes of 32 out of 34 North American elections since 2007.

KATE WEBB/METRO IN VANCOUVER

The kids don't come

"We're talking to young people, but are we talking to too many?"

Mario Canseco, vice-president of Angus Reid Public Opinion

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Cleveland.
Castro to plead not guilty

The lawyers for a man accused of keeping three women in captivity for about a decade say he will plead not guilty.

Attorneys Craig Weintraub and Jay Schlachet told WKYC-TV that suspect Ariel Castro has been portrayed as a "monster" in the media, and after meeting with him Tuesday they don't see him that way. Schlachet says details of Castro's innocence "will be disclosed as the case progresses." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ariel Castro
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'I am broken because part of me is gone': Bosma's wife

Missing-man case.
Dellen Millard plans to plead not guilty to first-degree murder charge, his lawyer says

A woman places flowers in front of Tim Bosma's home in Ancaster, Ont., Wednesday. Bosma was killed after posting his truck for sale online. DAVE CHIDLEY/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The young daughter of an Ontario man who was killed after posting his truck for sale online and taking a test drive with two men will grow up knowing how deeply he was loved, the man's wife vowed Wednesday.

Sharlene Bosma laid her anguish bare in a tearful public statement one day after police revealed that her husband Tim Bosma, 32, who had been missing since the test drive on May 6, is dead.

"Yesterday was the most horrifying day of my life and people tell me I have been so strong, and all I know is that I have a beautiful two-year-old girl at home who now needs her mommy more than ever and needs her mommy to hold it together, so I know that I cannot fall apart," she said.

"But I am broken because part of me is gone." Bosma's remains were found in Waterloo Region.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Background

Fateful online classified ad

Murder victim Tim Bosma posted his 2007 black Dodge Ram truck for sale online — including on the classifieds website Kijiji. However, Kijiji says that the murder suspects would not have been able to contact Bosma through its site.

Bosma did not reveal any personal information on the site.

Dellen Millard, 27, was originally charged with forcible confinement and theft over $5,000. A charge of first-degree murder was added Wednesday.

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Lost. Moon rock takes 40 years to reach Cyprus

Cyprus may finally get its piece of the moon.

Some 40 years ago, the Mediterranean island nation was supposed to receive a 1.1-gram piece of moon rock from the United States. The rock was one of 270 such lunar samples U.S. astronauts brought back from Apollo moon missions in 1969 and 1972 that the Nixon administration gave as gifts to foreign countries.

But the item vanished — allegedly taken by a relative of an American diplomat.

Three years ago, the moon rock was returned to NASA and locked up in a vault.

On Wednesday, a Cyprus Foreign Ministry official said U.S. authorities are favourably considering a Cypriot request that the rock be handed over.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Souvenir

The lunar souvenir, encased in a plastic globe, is from a rock from the Taurus Littrow valley of the moon.

Air India

Pilot locked out of cockpit mid-flight

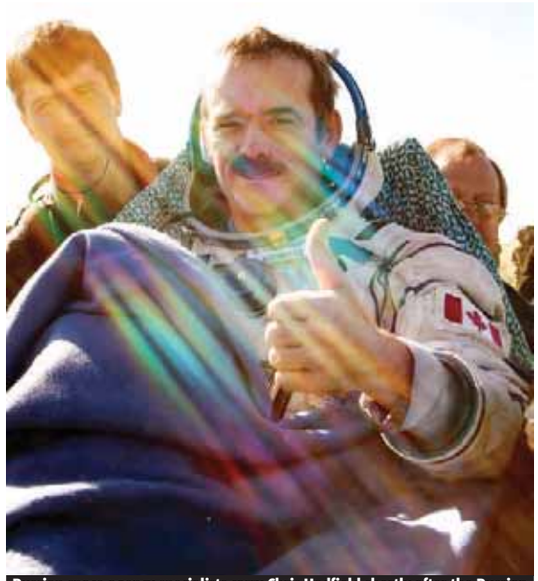
Air India says the cockpit door of one of its planes got jammed during a flight while the captain was using the washroom, forcing an unscheduled landing by the co-pilot in central India.

An airline statement says efforts to open the door, even from inside, failed during Tuesday's flight from New Delhi to the southern Indian city of Bangalore.

The door was fixed by ground maintenance staff and the plane resumed its flight. The airline said the incident posed no danger to the passengers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sons pushed Hadfield to social-media stardom



Russian space agency specialists carry Chris Hadfield shortly after the Russian Soyuz space capsule landed near the Kazakh town of Dzhezkazgan, Tuesday.

MIKHAIL METZEL/POOL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Not an early adopter. Astronaut balked when Evan and Kyle preached the merits of Twitter and Facebook three years ago

Chris Hadfield may have become a worldwide Internet sensation with his dramatic photos, tweets and musical performances from space.

But it took some convincing several years ago by his two sons to persuade him of the importance of social media in the first place.

During a family Christmas get-together in 2009 the Canadian astronaut's sons — Evan, who now lives in Germany, and Kyle, who's in China — pointed out that they relied on the Internet to find out what's going on.

Hadfield had only 20,000 Twitter followers when he blasted off on Dec. 19, 2012. Upon his return to Earth this week, he was hovering around one million Twitter followers and more than 325,000 "Likes" on Facebook.

During the mission, Evan Hadfield acted as a self-described "Internet janitor" for his dad. Evan also played a big role in producing the now-famous "Space Oddity" video, the David Bowie cover; it was the most-watched video Tuesday on YouTube, with more than seven million views.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Legal limit

"A licensing agreement was signed with David Bowie's company and the CSA that allows this video to appear on YouTube for one year."

A Canadian Space Agency spokeswoman in an email on the "Space Oddity" video.

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Who is the Syrian Electronic Army?

Activists or regime spies? Metro interviewed a member of the elusive network

KIERON MONKS
Metro World News

From wiping $136 billion off the U.S. stock market, to forcing spoof news site The Onion to turn serious, the Syrian Electronic Army is an emerging force in the conflict that has killed more than 70,000 people.

The pro-regime hackers have attacked hundreds of high-profile targets from the BBC to FIFA chief Sepp Blatter, but little is known about the group.

"The central mission of the SEA is to defend the Syrian nation against the vicious lying media campaign launched by more than half of the world," a spokesperson for the group told Metro. "We have not attacked any website or social-media account that has displayed neutrality when covering the war on Syria. Unfortunately, these are very few."

Launched quietly in 2011 from a Facebook group, the SEA has become an efficient network for creating chaos.

Composed "mostly of students and youth, with members of the Syrian Arab Army," according to the source, the group also has chapters in the U.S. and Europe.

The SEA's growing power was shown by an April hack of The Associated Press Twitter feed, from which they announced "Breaking: Two Explosions in the White House and Barack Obama is injured," causing a nosedive in the Dow Jones stock index.

The Onion fought back after suffering a similar attack, publishing a guide to SEA methods, which it claimed could be easily defended. However, further attacks on Sky News in May support the hackers' claim that they have more sophisticated tactics.

Membership numbers

5,000

Based on interviews with SEA operatives, Syrian activist Amjad Baiazy estimates there are more than 5,000 members, with a high level of training and funding.

Asked whether they supported President Bashar al-Assad's crackdown on protesters, the SEA said they "could criticize specific actions but whatever mistakes don't justify the animalism displayed by the opposition." They categorically denied receiving support from, or being close to, the regime.

This is disputed by experts.

"I think the SEA is close enough to the regime to be able to operate freely in a country that is known for its restrictive measures on Internet activities and information flow," said Helmi Noman, senior researcher at Citizen Lab who has studied the group since 2011. "The Syrian state TV has broadcast programs covering the activities of the SEA. SEA members appeared in these programs … so the group members are known and reachable to the Syrian media."

Syrian activist Amjad Baiazy, a former prisoner of the regime and academic researcher, goes further. "We know they are operating from Students' Union buildings which are like a syndicate for the government. The regime relies on the SEA for intelligence on opposition activists, gathering evidence for them to make arrests," he told Metro. "They are now a major asset for Assad."

BBC Weather @bbcweather
Tsunami alert for Haifa: Residents are advised to return to Poland
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BBC Weather @bbcweather
Forecast for Tel Aviv on Saturday - 5000 degrees Kelvin with northern fog and eastern high pressure front
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BBC Weather @bbcweather
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The Syrian Electronic Army was behind the hacking of the BBC's Twitter feed, above. Their hacking of The Associated Press Twitter feed caused the Dow Jones to nosedive, as shown by the plunging tracker below. SCREENGRABS

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5 TAILS, ONE STORY

Canada Post and the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies (CFHS) have teamed up on the Choose Pet Adoption stamp issue. Meet the stars of the stamps above. Use them on your mail to help raise awareness about pet adoption as the first choice when bringing a new animal into a family!

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China. Woman told to take down petition

The White House's online petition site We the People. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Upset about plans for a petrochemical plant near her hometown in China, a woman turned to a new method that Chinese are using to air their complaints: She posted a petition on the White House's website. Then, Chinese police asked her to take it down.

Last week's run-in with internal security agents turned into an unexpected lesson for the woman.

"I didn't think (the petition) was a big deal and didn't foresee the ensuing events," said the woman, who asked to be identified only by the initials she used on the petition, B.Y., for fear of further angering the police.

B.Y., who is in her late 20s and works in the finance industry in the central city of Chengdu, said the officers asked her in a meeting last Friday to delete the petition from the White House open petition site.

Set up in 2011, the We the People site allows the public to directly petition the White House. But she said she discovered the site does not allow people to remove petitions so she was unable to comply.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wigs and spy gadgets are shown in Moscow, Tuesday. The FSB claims they were carried by a man it said was Ryan Fogle, a third secretary at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow. FSB PUBLIC RELATIONS CENTER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Expelled U.S. diplomat was 2nd spy: Russia

Cold War nostalgia.

Alleged breach strains recent collaboration between sides in Boston bombing

A Russian security services operative — hidden in shadows — went on state television Wednesday to claim that the U.S. diplomat who was ordered out of the country was the second American expelled this year over spying allegations.

The anonymous operative said the CIA had failed to halt this "disturbing activity" despite Moscow asking it to do so.

The TV report came one day after Russia ordered Ryan Fogle, a third secretary at the U.S. Embassy, to leave the country after the Federal Security Service claimed to have caught him red-handed trying to recruit a Russian agent in Moscow. The agency, known by the initials FSB, alleged that Fogle worked for the CIA.

A U.S. Embassy card of a man claimed by FSB to be Ryan Fogle. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

State TV channels showed a man identified as an FSB agent saying that another American was told to leave in January in "another case of recruitment." The anonymous speaker, whose identity as an FSB operative could not be confirmed, did not give the name of the expelled American.

Various Russian TV networks gave different names for the American, and the FSB refused to clarify the name to The Associated Press. State Department spokesman Patrick Ventrell declined to comment.

The purported FSB agent said that in the January case his agency had decided not to publicize the expulsion, unlike the Fogle case, which has been top news in the Russian media for two days. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The spy who amused me

Some of the items Russian authorities say they seized from Ryan Fogle, who they accuse of spying, look like they came from Austin Powers' arsenal rather than James Bond's.

- **Wigs.** A blond one and an equally fluffy dark one.
- **Sunglasses.** Another tried but true way to quickly change appearance.
- **Piles of cash.** A generous advance to encourage a would-be agent.
- **Recruitment letter.** Contains detailed instructions for a would-be agent about secure communications and future meetings.
- **Pepper spray.** May offer some degree of protection in the Russian capital, especially against the stray dogs.
- **RFID shield.** A protective sleeve that prevents anyone from reading private information from credit cards and other items.
- **Lighter.** Maybe just a lighter.

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Cellphones — healthy?

A phone call a day...
Researcher says electromagnetic fields may be therapeutic

The main device we use to communicate with each other may not be harmful to our health after all. In some cases, cellphones may even be something akin to an apple a day, a London, Ont., doctor says.

Lawson Health Research Institute's Alexandre Legros said a "very large piece of research" is showing that all those allegedly harmful electromagnetic fields radiating from handhelds can actually be therapeutic.

The fields, he said, "can alter brain activity and physical responses, opening the possibility for therapy" for people with neurological disorders and diseases.

Cellphones have long been considered a potential health risk, with perceived damages including heightened chances of developing brain tumours. The World Health Organization's website, citing the International Agency for Research on Cancer, notes the electromagnetic fields are "possibly carcinogenic to humans."

Lawson started testing the idea a couple years ago, exposing volunteers to different levels of electromagnetic fields — via equipment like MRI machines — in order to see how they react.

So far, no one involved has seen their health decline. Instead, the exposure has created a bit of a spark in their brains.

Legros believes the research could provide a basis for future work, such as developing a less-invasive way to treat Parkinson's disease. Current treatments involve "very invasive surgery."

JOHN MATISZ/METRO IN LONDON, ONT.

The test subjects

Lawson Health Research Institute's research involving electromagnetic fields is being carried out on 17 volunteers, including males and females ranging in age from 18 to 55.

This little cubby went to the zoo

Kali, an orphaned polar bear cub seen in this undated photo, was possibly the most anticipated package ever delivered to the zoo in Buffalo, N.Y. The cub arrived Wednesday from Alaska and will spend the summer with another cub. Kali's journey began in March when a hunter realized a bear he'd killed was nursing. "He followed the tracks back to the den, crawled down inside, found a cub, pulled it out, put it in his coveralls ... then got hold of U.S. Fish and Wildlife," said Patrick Lampi, head of the Alaska Zoo. JOHN GOMES/ALASKA ZOO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

N.J. governor

Christie says he chose surgery to deal with weight

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie says he underwent secret weight-loss surgery because he had been feeling frustrated and angry over his inability to slim down.

The popular governor and potential presidential candidate told people attending an event at a Princeton bookstore that he got upset with himself when his clothes wouldn't fit. The Record newspaper reports Christie appeared with MSNBC host Mika Brzezinski, promoting his book Obsessed, which includes an interview with Christie about his weight.

In February, he had a band surgically placed around his stomach to restrict how much he could eat. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Leaving Scotland

Cardinal to pray, atone for sexual misconduct

The Scottish cardinal who resigned as archbishop after admitting to sexual misconduct will leave Scotland for several months of prayer and atonement, the Vatican said Wednesday.

Cardinal Keith O'Brien recused himself from the March conclave that elected Pope Francis after reports that he acted inappropriately toward other priests. O'Brien subsequently acknowledged he had engaged in unspecified sexual misbehaviour. He resigned as archbishop of St. Andrews and Edinburgh, apologized and promised to stay out of the church's public life.

In the past, wayward priests have been sanctioned by the Vatican with punishments of "prayer and penance." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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This file photo shows an Android display at the Google I/O developers' conference in June 2012. This year's version of the conference kicked off on Wednesday in San Francisco. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Google unveils music streaming service

San Francisco. Raft of announcements at developers' conference also cover Google Plus features, Maps redesign

Google's sixth annual conference for software developers opened Wednesday with a chance for the company to showcase its latest services. Announcements include a new phone, new tools for online games, a music-streaming service, a range of features for the Google Plus social network — including tools for sharing and enhancing photos — and a redesign of Google Maps.

The audience of about 6,000 people at Google I/O includes engineers and entrepreneurs who develop applications and other features that can make smartphones and tablets more appealing.

Google's All Access streaming service will allow Android users to listen to their favourite songs and artists for a monthly fee. It launched in the U.S. Wednesday and will be available in other countries later. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

North Pole nations. Canada takes over Arctic Council

Canada has officially taken over leadership of a newly broadened circumpolar world, beginning a two-year stint as head of an eight-member group of countries around the North Pole that is the primary international forum on northern issues.

"The time has come to embrace the Arctic and realize the tremendous potential and opportunities it has to offer for all of us," said federal Health Minister and Nunavut MP Leona Aglukkaq, who will serve as Arctic Council chairwoman during Canada's leadership.

Aglukkaq will be working with a larger group of countries interested in an increasingly accessible, resource-rich North. At its meeting in Kiruna, Sweden, on Wednesday, the council expanded the number of non-Arctic countries allowed to monitor discussions. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sweden's Foreign Minister Carl Bildt hands the gavel symbolizing the chairmanship of the Arctic Council to Nunavut MP Leona Aglukkaq in Kiruna, Sweden, on Wednesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WWF perspective

- The World Wildlife Fund, which has observer status, said the council is slowly making progress. The group praised agreements on oil spills and biodiversity and talks to strengthen shipping regulations. But it pointed out a deal on black carbon, or soot, was blocked and there has been little progress on reducing the impacts of climate change.

Real estate

Home sales down 3% from year ago

Canadian home prices continued to rise in April even as year-over-year sales fell three per cent, according to the latest industry data that has left economists divided over whether the market can count on a soft landing. The Canadian Real Estate Association said Wednesday there were 47,997 homes sold in April, down from 49,553 a year earlier. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 98.31¢ (-0.02¢)

TSX 12,473.65 (-103.40)

OIL $94.30 US (+9¢)

GOLD $1,396.20 US (-$28.30)

Natural gas: $4.07 US (+5¢)
Dow Jones: 15,275.69 (+60.44)

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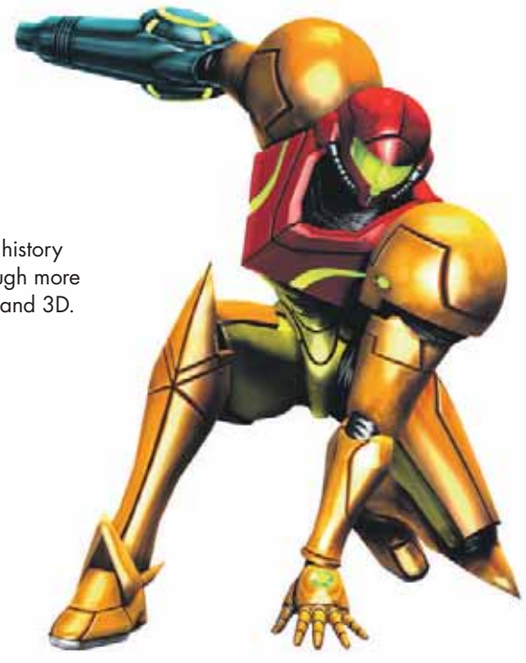

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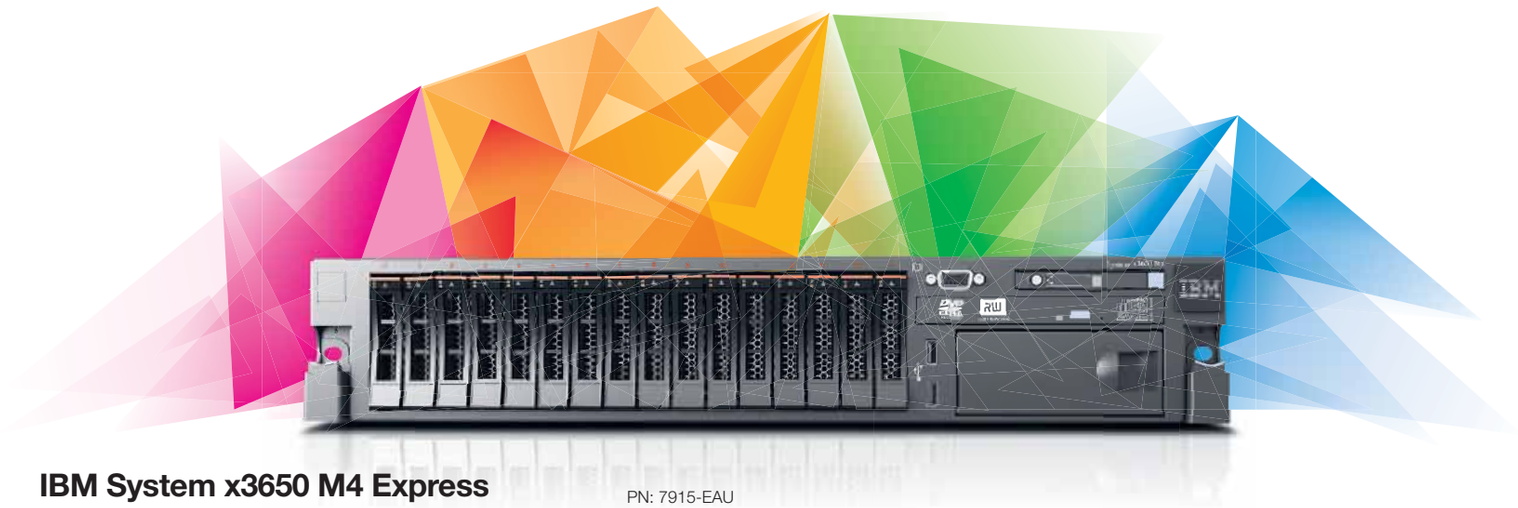

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[2]HP ProLiant DL380p G8 supports up to 35 °C (Link: http://www.storagenetworks.com/documents/manuals/dl380p-gen8-manual.pdf). Dell PowerEdge R720 and R720xd support up to 40 °C at 10% of annual operating hours or less (Link: http://support.dell.com/support/edocs/systems/peR720/en/OM/r720omen.pdf).

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ROMANTICIZING YOUR ROAD TRIP

HE SAYS

John Mazerolle
metronews.ca

Time to hit the road, Jack!

The Victoria Day weekend is the unofficial kickoff of Canada's summer (because we're sure as he-- not waiting for real summer) and for me that has always meant road trips.

It could mean a jaunt to a cottage to celebrate Queen Victoria's glorious reign (Her Majesty was known for her gardening, cottage cleaning and barbecue skills). Or it could be a longer journey this summer to see some of this country's most important roadside fruits, such as the Oxford, N.S., blueberry.

Regardless of your travelling tastes, here are a few planning tips to help any road trip go more smoothly, potholes notwithstanding.

Six tips from a roads scholar

Plan (or don't plan) to your liking. If you're the type of person who prefers every part of your trip planned out to the letter, take advantage of modern technology and use Google Maps. If you're more of an adventurer and prefer to have no idea where you're going, use Apple Maps.

Choose your travelling partners carefully. For example, don't take your children. On one trip when I was younger I repeatedly sang Sloop John B ("This is the worst trip I've ever been on") to let my parents know the all-expenses-paid road trip they were treating me to was not living up to my exacting 14-year-old standards. I'm still mad at them, because in retrospect they should have left me on the side of the road to die. They would have been right to do it.

Rent a well-equipped vehicle. That way if you can't find a perfect travelling partner, you can still get companionship with the help of the OnStar button. "Is there something broken in the vehicle, sir?" "Only the driver, ma'am. Only the driver." The call disconnects a lot for some reason, so you'll need to keep calling back.

Prepare for emergencies. Be ready for flat tires. All motorists should carry with them a vulcanized rubber patch, a hand pump, rubber cement, and a wading pool filled with enough water to detect a leak in a 17-inch radial.

Do not forget that you are sitting on a pack of Junior Mints and grinding the melted chocolate into the fabric of your rental car. I can't stress this one enough. I can say based on personal research that in 2012 this statistically happened 100 per cent of the time. So be prepared.

Take the road less travelled. By that I mean go to New Brunswick. My home province needs it and will be thrilled to see you, once the shock wears off. Toronto's tourism slogan is "We've been expecting you," which is very apt for Canada's super villain. By contrast, New Brunswick's is "For the love of God please stop the car." If you go you'll be popular and may become an attraction yourself.

And those are my travelling tips. I hope you find them helpful.

Now if you'll excuse me, I have a romantic road-trip weekend planned.

Mrs. OnStar's going to love it when she finds out.

ZOOM

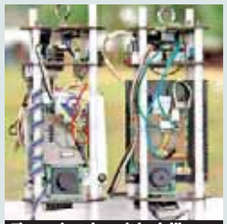
Ghana's space dreams take flight

CHRISTIAN THOMPSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOS

Satellite is just the beginning

Students use a balloon to launch Deployable CanSat, a soda-can sized model of a satellite, at All Nations University in Koforidua, Ghana, Wednesday. It went aloft to a height of 165 metres and then came back down attached to a parachute.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



The project doesn't look like much, yet in this developing West African country, ambitious organizers see it as a sign of bigger things to come.

Only direction to go is up

"Some wonder why we couldn't concentrate on our problems of water, sanitation, health, all those things. I categorically disagree.... Space will help African countries who are very serious with it to leapfrog their development because it cuts across all sectors of the economy."

Prosper Kofi Ashilevi, director of the Ghana Space Science and Technology Center, which recently celebrated its one-year anniversary

"We hope that this practical demonstration of what can be done by students like them will generate more enthusiasm, fire up their imagination to come up with more creative things, and show that it's possible that they'll one day be able to launch their own real satellite into orbit," he added.

Click bait

ANDREW FIFIELD
andrew.fifield@metronews.ca

You know what's the worst? The terror of discussing your favourite shows the next day when there's always someone within earshot to give you a tongue-lashing about spoilers. Why should you pay for them being laggards? Try these sites for sharp recaps and witty discussion about the best TV.

The AV Club

The Onion's sister site makes it easy to decide what shows to catch up on by attaching a letter grade to each review. Intrigued by Twitter chat about The Americans? Check its report card here. (avclub.com)

Grantland

Molly Lambert's take on whatever bleak note Mad Men ended on pairs with Andy Greenwald's funny and insightful pieces on Game of Thrones for Monday afternoon's best one-two punch. (grantland.com)

Vulture

Easily the snarkiest of this lot, Vulture's writers take particular delight in savaging shows that secretly drive you crazy, too. Ahem, The Walking Dead. The hidden gems are the hilarious American Idol recaps, which are much more fun than the actual episodes. (vulture.com)

Comments

RE: $84 Gelato, And Other Tourist Trap Horror Stories, published May 15

Wow, perhaps people should visit natural features of the planet instead of man-made structures! It barely costs anything to hike or cycle unless you prefer a guide. Can't these tourists do the money conversion to figure out what they're really paying? If people were smart, they would just walk away!

Skippy76 posted to metronews.ca

Twitter

@metropicks asked: Angelina Jolie had a mastectomy after finding out via gene tests she is predisposed to cancer. Would you do the same?

@halla_p: As a mother of two young ones ... You betcha!!!

@GACat: Yes, I would do the same thing. In a heartbeat.

Follow @metropicks and take part in our daily poll.

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Send us your comments: torontoletters@metronews.ca

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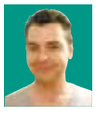
Christopher Alan Gray, Leslie Kay, Dean Hollin and Alison O'Neil star in I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change, which is showing at the Toronto Centre for the Arts. HANDOUT

Even perfection needed changes

I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change.
Popular off-Broadway show gets update for modern era, including a major character change



BACKSTAGE PASS
Ian Gormely
scene@metronews.ca

For every studio head that's screamed, "give the people what they want" there's a director or producer who's fought tooth and nail against the old adage. And it's a creative push-pull that continues with this week's premiere of I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change, tonight at the Toronto Centre for the Arts.

"It's nothing drastic," says director Evan Tsitias of the changes he's made to the hit off-Broadway show. "We're just trying to make them relevant to 2013."

I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change, was the second-longest running show in off Broadway history, with more than 5,000 performances before officially closing in 2008.

Told through more than 30 vignettes, the show "covers a whole gamut of different types of relationships," says Dean Hollin, one of four actors who inhabit the show's 72 different characters.

Tsitias, Hollin and the rest of the cast all worked together last July when the show ran in Brampton.

Acting out — 72 times

I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change challenges four actors to play more than 70 different characters, a real change for performers used to committing to a single character and seeing their narrative arc play out over the course of a show on stage.

- **Quote.** "It's great," says actor Dean Hollin "One minute you're one character, the next minute you're playing someone different. It forces you as an actor to jump in mid-stream." Hollin and the cast mounted the same show last summer in Burlington. He says coming back to these characters a year later gives the cast a chance to further develop each one. "We are doing as much as we can to explore different options."

But for this re-mount, Tsitias wanted to shake things up.

"The comedy is very broad, borderline caricature," he says. "I find the humour is actually funnier when the situations are relatable."

Most of Tsitias' changes are subtle, although there is one major character change.

"As a gay man, there's not a lot of representation for me in the show," he says, noting there were no gay characters in the original script, written in the 1990s.

Of course, a hit show creates audience expectations, which don't always jive with the creative impulses taken by the cast and director.

"I don't know if they come in wanting those twists," admits Tsitias, "But for me, why replicate what's been done before? We're just trying to find other ways of getting the humour out."

Hollin is more confident.

"People who like live theatre also appreciate and expect that they'll get a slightly different treatment."

I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change runs until June 2 at the Toronto Centre for the Arts. Visit angelwalk.ca.

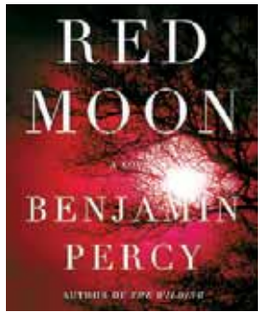
SHOPPERS DRUG MART
SEE WHAT'S NEW... CHECK OUT OUR LATEST OFFER ON PAGE 32

Benjamin Percy, author of Red Moon, says, "The end of the world has never been so popular, because the end of the world has never seemed more possible..." HANDOUT

The apocalypse, some werewolves and a little love

Interview. Author Benjamin Percy talks about his new book Red Moon and why the genre is more popular than ever

DOROTHY ROBINSON
Metro World News



Author Benjamin Percy says he's "always loved the epic novel — the kind that swallows up your life, that tangles you in its complicated web — and I've always wanted to write one." And his new book Red Moon is just that. The sweeping tome is a mixture of a supernatural thriller (hello, werewolves), a love story and a political allegory all wrapped up in one insanely readable package. Here's how he did it:

How did you come to write a book about werewolves?
Some of the most lasting horror stories target cultural unease. Consider Frankenstein: The creature embodies the fear of science and technology; man playing God; all of the anxieties that swirled out of the Industrial Revolution. So when I sat down to brainstorm Red Moon, I considered what we fear now. We fear disease and we fear terrorism.

Why do you think that apocalyptic and post-apocalyptic narratives are so addictive these days?
They've been around forever, but since 9/11 there has been a flood of films and novels. The end of the world has never been so popular, because the end of the world has never seemed more possible due to political and economic and environmental unrest.

Red Moon is part love story, part horror and part political allegory. But if you had to whittle down the point, what is it?
I hope my readers feel struck by the political allegory, and I hope their pulse quickens with the love story, and I hope the more horrifying passages scare the pants off of them. Its core — this post-9/11 reinvention of the werewolf myth — is thought-provoking entertainment.

In depth

What kind of research did he do to nail down the book's militaristic aspects?

- **Quote.** "I spent dozens of hours with researchers at the USDA and Iowa State University, trying to figure out the slippery science behind animal-borne pathogens and vaccinations. I had to talk to politicians and government agents and brewmasters and pharmacists. And I got my hands on the Marine Corps handbook," Percy said.

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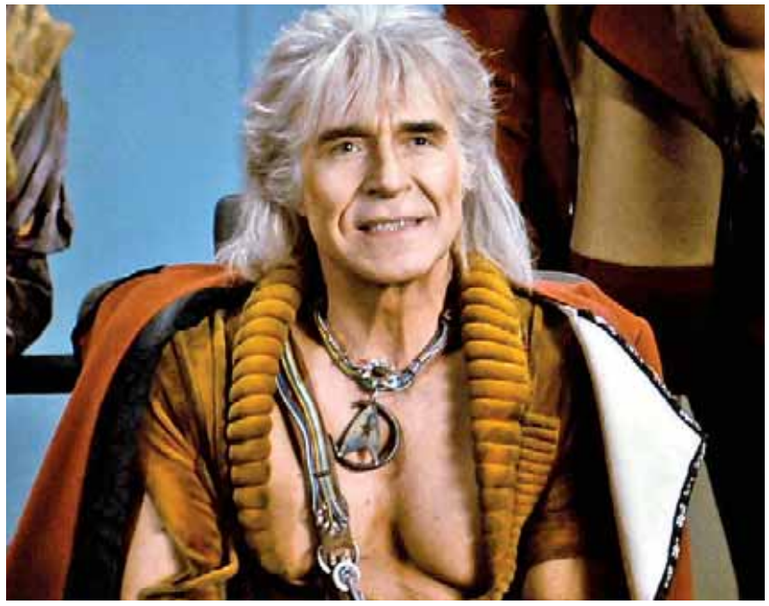
Prepping for Star Trek Into Darkness



Space Seed and Star Trek II: Wrath of Khan

When Star Trek Into Darkness was announced, rumours swirled about the identity of the villain — would it be Khan? Fans hoped so. A genetically engineered, bare-chested freak show (played by Ricardo Montalban), Khan, first seen on the TV series, once controlled much of Earth. When unfrozen in the future, he aims to take over the Enterprise, but is exiled by Kirk. Years later, he seeks revenge — this time, on the big screen, in Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan. Although the nemesis in Darkness is named John Harrison, there's a possibility — because the films follow a different timeline — he could somehow morph into, to quote Star Trek II, "Khaaaaan!"

Sherlock

Khan or no Khan, Darkness has a formidable foe — Benedict Cumberbatch stars as John Harrison. Genre-nerds already adore the Brit from Sherlock, the newish BBC series, in which he brilliantly solves crimes despite, or because of, what seems like Asperger's. The actor brings a leonine power, and sexiness, to the well-worn role. Indeed, he's a sex symbol, despite resembling, in his words, Sid the Sloth from Ice Age, or, in a blogger's words, "a horse-faced twot." (Already seen Sherlock? Then see his Stephen Hawking in Hawking).

Captain Kirk, Spock and crew are back in Star Trek Into Darkness, battling a terrorist bent on destroying Earth. Besides watching the first Trek film, what more should you do to prepare? Take a look at our top five primers.

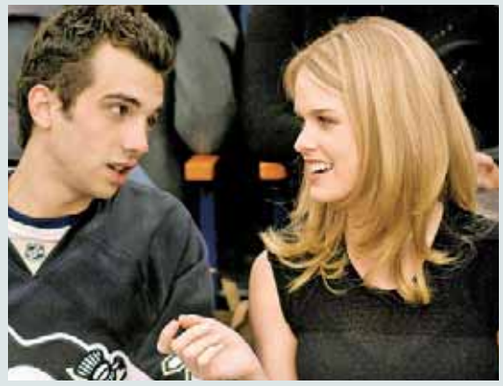
SAM CASTONE
Metro World News

Amok Time

At the heart of the show, and the movies, is the relationship between Spock and Kirk. One's logical. The other's a romantic. But they'd do anything for one another. For proof, watch the 1967 episode Amok Time. Headed to a president's inauguration, Kirk breaks the rules and diverts his ship to the planet Vulcan, to help Spock mate with his presumed wife. After complications, Kirk appears to die, rendering an uncharacteristically distressed Spock unable to love any other partner.

Assignment: Earth

Yes, Earth. The setting of Star Trek Into Darkness may surprise non-fans: Our planet, with a London that doesn't look entirely different from today's. Although the series usually takes place in space, the original Star Trek did get back to Earth a number of times. Catch Assignment: Earth, when the crew travels back to the swinging '60s to meet a James Bond-type, or Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home, in which aliens contact humpback whales in San Francisco.



She's Out of My League

This forgettable comedy features the unforgettable Star Trek Into Darkness star Alice Eve in a bra and panties. Hey, we had to include something on this list that didn't involve a Vulcan.

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Vampire Weekend breaks dawn with new album

Modern Vampires in the City. The often discussed band is relieved the focus is finally back on just their music

When Vampire Weekend debuted to breathless blog fussing five years ago, their pristine blue-sky pop was marred by a few pesky clouds.

The concern that was so crucial to any Vampire Weekend discussion at the time: was their unique, broadly accessible African-influenced pop somehow rendered unpalatable by the group's preppy style, Ivy League educations and occasional penchant for preciousness?

Even in churning out raves, mainstream media made near-constant references to the group's supposedly passionate "haters," while never failing to mention the group's freshly scrubbed sartorial esthetic or upbringing — in reviews of the band's self-titled debut, Rolling Stone, NME and Pitchfork all dutifully scribbled references to boat shoes, starched shirts and Columbia University.

As the band releases its third album, the sparkling Modern Vampires of the City, those conversations have finally faded into the background. And certainly, no one is more relieved than the band's soft-spoken, serious-minded multi-instrumentalist Rostam Batmanglij.

"I think people have maybe a better understanding of who we are and I think that we've always tried to let our music sort of speak for itself and we've always wanted the conversations to be about our music as opposed to other things," he said in a recent interview in Toronto. "So I think that naturally that's happened. There's been an evolution over time.

"I think all of us," he added later, "would rather talk about songs, music and lyrics, as opposed to assumptions based on non-facts. Which was some of the story in the early days."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Vampire Weekend songwriter Rostam Batmanglij is happy to discuss their music. He's also happy to not have to talk about the band's 'haters' anymore. FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Influences

Modern Vampires of the City, out this week, shows a band that has matured in the right ways, judiciously shedding all the right elements.

- **What to expect.** The globally derived gaiety of their earlier work has been scaled back, so their influences are no longer worn on sleeve, but stitched into the band's fabric. The set hits dizzier heights of transcendent anthem-hood — check the chandelier-ornate Step, the giddy sugar rush of Diane Young or the swooning Ya Hey.

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The Y evolution

Gordon Chong, centre left, chair of the board and Medhat Mahdy, centre right, CEO of the GTA's YMCA, are spearheading a 10-year plan for the Y.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

THE Y'S THE LIMIT

Medhat Mahdy knows the importance of being welcomed into a new community.

A Muslim immigrant from Egypt, he began working with the GTA's YMCA as a part-time tennis coach in 1976. Now he is its CEO and president, leading the organization's vision for change for the ever-expanding metropolitan area.

Celebrating its 160th anniversary this year, the Y of the GTA is evolving to meet the needs of the city around it.

"The vision is that our communities will be home to the healthiest children," Mahdy says.

The new plan is about implementing a modern community health strategy, building on strong foundations the Y has carefully laid for so many years.

To this end, key areas in the city, where the need is greatest, have been identified, and the Y has committed to building 10 new community centres, starting off with work on the Kingston Road location (East Toronto), Vanauley Road (Queen West), Bridletowne (North Scarborough), Cherry Street (Pan Am Athletes Village) and Kipling Avenue (Etobicoke). In order to achieve its goal, the YMCA must fundraise $250 million by 2020.

As the name suggests, the original Young Christian Men's Association began its life as a health and fitness club predominantly for men in the 1800s, but today the organization is an inclusive place for everyone, no matter their faith or sex.

"The organization hasn't moved away from its ethical centre," says Gordon Chong, chair of the YMCA board. "But for a Christian organization to have a Muslim CEO from Egypt and a Chinese-Canadian as their chair, well, it's changed for sure."

These changes have made the Y more responsive to the needs of the population.

"Government money is dwindling, so we need to expand our programs to be relevant to our city," Chong says. "We need to think about what we provide aside from the swim-and-gym options."

One of these expanded programs includes helping young people who live on the street.

Last spring, the YMCA started a drop-in centre for homeless youth in the Queen Street West area. The shelter runs on weekdays with 50 to 70 young people using the facilities each day, says Louise Smith, the YMCA's youth outreach co-ordinator.

The Y also runs an emergency shelter for young men between 16 and 24 across the street from the Queen West centre. It has been operating at full capacity with 45 beds seven days a week.

John Kahled,17, an Afghan-Canadian, has been using the Y for five years. He regularly attends Teen Nights — one of the new initiatives launched under Mahdy's leadership — at the Scarborough centre. He currently works at the Y on a co-op placement five days a week, but also goes to the Y about three times a week to play sports.

"The Y just makes me feel welcome," Kahled says. "It's a second home now."

– Tamara Baluja

BOLD NEW FIVE

With the population of the city set to grow by more than one million people by 2025, the YMCA of Greater Toronto is planning a raft of innovative projects in key neighbourhoods. These five "Centres of Community" will provide programs and services for thousands of people to ensure the health of current and future generations.

1 Kipling Avenue. This proposed new build will be a large, modern 60,000-square-foot centre, part of a redevelopment including new residential and office buildings. It is scheduled to open in November 2017.

2 Vanauley Street. The Vanauley Street YMCA, near Queen Street West and Spadina Avenue, will be remodelled to include a homeless shelter as well as employment services and programs for street-involved and at-risk youth. The 11,400-square-foot centre will open in 2013.

3 Front Street and Cherry Street. The new Cherry Street Y will be converted into a large, modern 50,000-square-foot YMCA centre following the 2015 Pan Am Games, opening in the summer of 2016. The centre will provide services to more than 8,000 people.

4 Bridletowne Circle. This proposed 100,000-square-foot, multi-service centre in the Steeles-L'Amoreaux neighbourhood will be part of a facility of community and health services, including a 40,000-square-foot area given over to Scarborough Hospital.

5 Kingston Road The current YMCA building will be demolished, and a 24,000-square-foot facility built in its place, providing a new gym, Pilates studio, youth and community programs and more. The centre is slated to open October 2015.

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Building healthy communities

HELPING DEVELOP A NEIGHBOURHOOD

Formerly a sprawling grey vista of old industrial lands, the West Don Lands is on its way to becoming a vibrant community, thanks to historic revitalization plans that include affordable housing, green space and the 2015 Pan/Parapan American Games Athletes' Village.

Located at Cherry and Front streets, the village will later become a state-of-the-art YMCA and George Brown College student residence.

"The Pan Am Village was a natural (fit) for the West Don Lands precinct because it was already planned and ready to go, so shovels could go in the ground very quickly," says Pam McConnell, a Toronto councillor whose ward includes the West Don Lands.

For the YMCA, the location at Cherry and Front streets represented opportunities to become part of a great partnership, improve the health indicators in the community and to contribute to the development of the neighbourhood.

"It's a big open space that's flexible," says Alex Verslius, vice-president of property management for the YMCA of Greater Toronto. "It allows for a vision for a community space where things can happen based on the goals of the community."

Turning of the sod at the Pan Am site.

INFRASTRUCTURE ONTARIO

Verslius has been involved with planning for the facilities, along with the project's other partners — Waterfront Toronto, Infrastructure Ontario, the Toronto 2015 Organizing Committee, the Ontario Ministry of Health Promotion and Sport, and George Brown College.

Once the games have come to an end, the facilities will undergo a transition to suit their new purpose.

Once converted, the new centre will have 4,645 square metres (50,000 square feet) of space for community activities, a gymnasium, fitness studios, a swimming pool, multi-purpose rooms and a 1,020-square-metre (11,000-square-foot) accessible green roof. Its services and programming will be able to support more than 8,000 people in the community.

"It's a huge win-win-win for everybody," says Cynthia Wilkey, chair of the West Don Lands committee.

– Jaclyn Tersigni

A FAMILY TRADITION

CAMP PINE CREST A HOME AWAY FROM HOME

At the age of 11, Sydney Gee was the third generation of her family to go to Camp Pine Crest, a YMCA camp on 263 hectares surrounded by lakes in Muskoka.

But even though she had grown up hearing stories about Pine Crest — from her father Bruce and his cousins, who had gone as campers and staff, and her great-uncle Bob — the prospect of being away from home for two weeks was making her nervous.

But within moments of being at camp and meeting the counsellors for the first time, she felt at home.

"I remember being so excited and happy, and all my worries just went away," she says.

Six years later, Gee, 17, is returning to the camp, heading into its 103rd summer this year. This time she is a counsellor, and is looking forward to creating an equally wonderful experience for young campers.

For Gee, as for so many Pine Crest campers, the opportunity to get away from the city, be a part of nature, be active, try new things, go on a long canoe trip (if that's what you sign up for) and make lifelong friends is a highlight of every year.

YMCA PHOTO

"It does become your second home," Gee says.

In fact, her mother, Dana, says that through the school year, nightly family dinners (Gee's brothers, Jackson and Matthew, are also Pine Crest campers) pretty much follow a predictable pattern.

"We all talk about what happened during the day," she says. "And then after three or four minutes the conversation reverts to camp."

Both Gee and her father say experiences at Pine Crest helped them become the people they are. Gee has developed organizational and leadership skills that she connects to camp, and, she says, she makes new friends easily.

– Nora Underwood

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MAKING EVERY SHOT COUNT

HOW THE YMCA HELPS TO BUILD HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

It might look like kids playing basketball but there are many more layers...

They're being part of a community and learning leadership skills
They have less chance of developing disease
They're having human interaction in today's digital world – apparently teens send 3,700 texts a month
They're being active, which can lead to better mental health

THE COMMUNITY NEED	THE Y's IMPACT (2011)
1 in 5 children under the age of nine in Toronto have access to a licensed child care spot.	Over **16,000** children are dropped off daily at a YMCA Child Care. X1000
9 in 10 young people aren't getting enough activity.	**165,880** people participate in health and fitness programs. **12,960** children are learning how to swim.
1 in 5 children in the Toronto area under age 17 live in a low-income household. Statistics Canada 2006 Census, Toronto CMA	We help **45,278** people access programs through financial assistance.

Ynot – Imagine the possibilities

Louise Smith is manager of youth outreach and intervention for YMCA of Greater Toronto.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

GET CONNECTED TO SERVICES, SUPPORT

For young people who need a hand, the YMCA is more than swimming pools and fitness facilities. On Vanauley Street, the Y provides a vital service for at-risk youth who would otherwise spend their days roaming the streets.

"It's a place where you can come in and get some respite from being on the street because it's difficult to survive there," says Louise Smith, manager of youth outreach and intervention for YMCA of Greater Toronto. "You can get connected to services and supports and people who can help."

The Vanauley Street YMCA began operating last May in response to a need for drop-in services in the Queen Street West area after other similar programs shut down. The YMCA has been running a young men's emergency shelter in the area since 1986, but wanted to expand its services.

Before the YMCA took over the space, 7 Vanauley St. was occupied by another drop-in group that decided to shift its focus to Scarborough. There was some concern among members of the homeless population in the area, who worried about where to access services once the drop-in closed at the end of March 2012.

To alleviate those concerns, the YMCA was able to operate a temporary drop-in service in the basement of its nearby shelter while the Vanauley Street location was being prepared.

When it was ready to open its doors about a month later, the focus was on providing necessities such as hot meals, showers and laundry. Since then, the YMCA and the Vanauley Street staff have been working to provide services based on what their visitors need.

"One of the ways that we work is making sure that we involve people who are using the service in decisions around the types of supports that are operating there," Smith says.

– Jaclyn Tersigni

NUMBERS

- More than 1,000 youth visited in September alone.
- The number of youth staying in shelters increased by 16.2 per cent from 2006 to 2009.
- Two-thirds (66.8 per cent) of the homeless population of the city of Toronto can be found in the Toronto East-York Community Council District (which includes the Kensington/Chinatown neighbourhood).
- The overall number of homeless people in Toronto remains largely unchanged between 2006 (5,052) and 2009 (5,086).
- After shelters, drop-ins remain the service most used by homeless people (51.6 per cent).

Youngblood Hawke's new album, Wake Up, is opening some eyes. HANDOUT PHOTO

Youngblood Hawke swims into the deep

Music. After a false start with another band, Sam Martin and Simon Katz are back with a new band to Wake Up the world

ALEXANDRA CAVALLO
Metro World News

To hear Youngblood Hawke's Sam Martin talk, you might imagine him some kind of environmentalist, rather than the frontman of a swiftly rising indie pop outfit.

"I think it's important to conserve nature and take care of our earth," he says.

"I feel like one day we're going to look, and it's going to disappear on us, and we're going to wish that we had lived a little bit differently."

He's talking about the inspiration for the music video for the band's single We Come Running, which was filmed entirely underwater and features the band members swimming alongside live sharks. "We wanted to show people that they weren't these man-eating killers. We can't keep slaughtering these animals at the rate we're doing it, because we're going to completely wipe them out. And the ocean would die."

Quote

"I feel confident in our album and our songwriting abilities. I think we're just fortunate to be in this position right now."

Sam Martin
Youngblood Hawke.

Indeed, Martin says that if he weren't a musician he'd probably be working in the great outdoors. But he's otherwise employed, making infectious, up-tempo electro-rock with one of his best college buds, producer Simon Katz.

Martin and Katz have been collaborating ever since the two moved from Colorado to L.A. to start their first band, Iglu & Hartly.

The band enjoyed moderate success, scoring a Top 5 hit in Europe, before dissolving suddenly — and painfully, says Martin — due to strained relationships with other members. The pair seem to be in a much better place now.

"I feel confident in our album and our songwriting abilities. I think we're just fortunate to be in this position right now," he says.

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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie

Emotional Brad proud Angelina went public about double mastectomy

No one is as moved by Angelina Jolie's decision to go public about her double mastectomy than her partner, Brad Pitt. "I'm quite emotional about it, of course," he tells USA Today. "She could have stayed absolutely private about it and I don't think anyone would have been none the wiser with such good results. But it was really important to her to share the story and that others would understand it doesn't have to be a scary thing. In fact, it can be an empowering thing and something that makes you stronger and us stronger."

Twitter

@ewan_mcgregor
It's a beautiful day. Busy and not. Exciting things on the horizon. And where I stand – is pretty lovely.

@GarryShandling
The photographer told me today that "head shots" are not in my acting range.

@daxshephard1
As happy as I am about the renewal, I was kinda looking forward to getting the Parenthood Movie funded on kick starter.

The Word

Beyoncé says sorry to Belgium for cancelled gig

Beyoncé felt so bad about canceling a gig in Antwerp, Belgium — on doctors orders because she was suffering from "dehydration and exhaustion" — that she posted a handwritten apology on her website. "To my dearest fans in Antwerp, I've never postponed a show in my life. It was very hard for me. I promise I will make it up very soon. I'm sorry if I disappointed you," Beyoncé wrote. "Thank you for your concern. I'm feeling much better now and I'm ready to give you a great show. See you tonight." The singer's health concerns almost immediately sparked rumours that she is pregnant with her second child.

Lindsay Lohan ALL IMAGES GETTY

Lohan coping well in rehab despite hiccup

Lindsay Lohan is more than 10 days into her court-ordered 90-day rehab stint at the Betty Ford Center, and it's apparently just fine, according to E! News. "She is doing well. She seems like she's finally adjusted," a source says. There was reportedly some uproar in the first week when Lohan allegedly discovered doctors wouldn't allow her to take the ADD prescription drug Adderall, but things have settled down, according to the source: "She is just going to have to deal with it."

Amy Winehouse

Amy Winehouse to be immortalized in bronze

Amy Winehouse's parents have enlisted artist Scott Eaton to sculpt a life-size bronze statue of the late singer to be displayed at London music venue the Roadhouse, which happens to be the last place Winehouse performed before her death, according to E! News. "She's going to be installed on the balcony in the Roundhouse in the Camden area, because Camden is her home where she lived. So she's kind of looking back towards Camden Town from the balcony," Eaton says. "So it's not going to be ... cheesy. She's not with a microphone or anything like that."

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The fashionable gent's favourite fine-clothing purveyor brings one of literature's most charismatic and complicated characters to the world's closet.

METRO WORLD NEWS

The great Gatsby getup

Silver screen style. Brooks Brothers GM Deepak Chopra teaches the modern man to mix some movie magic into his wardrobe

It isn't a fashion film if it doesn't have a clothing line attached to it. Brooks Brothers is taking the menswear looks they provided for the screen to the store with its Great Gatsby-inspired collection. Yep, that means you can get a hold of Jay Gatsby's 20s-style tailoring.

"Brooks Brothers is mentioned numerous times in Fitzgerald's writings as a representation of the ultimate gentleman's purveyor of fine clothing to the American man of distinction," says Catherine Martin, the costume designer behind the film's 500-strong wardrobe, in a statement to the press.

Metro recently had the opportunity to speak with Deepak Chopra, general manager of Brooks Brothers at Royal Bank Plaza in Toronto, to find out about the collection and his must-have suggestions.

The tuxedo

Every man should own a tuxedo, but how many of us do? At the current price point, Chopra says now is the time to invest.

JACKET, $935; TROUSERS, $272; BACKLESS VEST $196; BAT WING BOW TIE, $60; TUXEDO SHIRT, $148.

The cardigan

The bottle-green shawl cardigan — seen in the movie — is another timeless piece to add to your wardrobe, Chopra suggests.

CARDIGAN, $168

The linen suit

Perfect for summer, the linen suit offers a sense of relaxed ease. It is available in a number of colours and patterns and the pants can be worn with suspenders or belts.

JACKETS, $725; PANTS $328

The waist jacket

While they look good paired with the linen suits, Chopra notes the waist jackets can add a dapper air to a pair of chinos or jeans.

WAIST JACKETS, $328

BROOKSBROTHERS.COM

The tuxedo's backless vest features an art deco Greek key design.

Chopra draws attention to the shoes in the collection, which include a wingtip (shown), black patent leather, and a white and brown loafer. $385 to $655

Madame of the movies

Tiffany is also toasting the Jazz Age with its new Ziegfeld collection, based on the brand's archival jewelry designs from the 1920s.

Ziegfeld Cuff Links

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TIFANNY.CA

Fish delights with cabbage and pico de gallo and cream sauce — oh my!

Baja, the peninsula of Mexico located south of California, is famous for its fish tacos, which are gaining popularity around the globe. These lightly fried fish delights are layered with cabbage, cream sauce and pico de gallo salsa.

1. Mexican White Sauce: In a small bowl, combine mayonnaise, yogurt and lime juice. Cover and refrigerate for at least 2 hours or for up to 24 hours.

2. In a large bowl, combine tomatoes, green onions, jalapenos, serrano chiles, onion and cilantro. Add lime juice and mix. Transfer to airtight container and refrigerate, stirring occasionally for one hour or up to 24 hours. Add salt just to taste before serving.

3. Batter: In a large bowl, combine flour, beer and salt. Mix well to a thick consistency.

4. Tacos: Rinse fish and pat dry with paper towel. Cut crosswise into 2.5-cm (1-inch) wide strips.

5. Fill a deep fryer or deep skillet with 2.5 cm (1 inch) of oil and heat to 180 C (350 F). Using tongs, dredge fish pieces in batter and gently place in oil. Deep-fry 4 pieces at a time, turning once, until golden brown, about 1 minute per side. Drain on paper towels. Discard any excess batter.

6. In a griddle or skillet over medium-high heat, heat each tortilla on each side until soft and pliable. Wrap in foil to keep warm until ready to use. To build tacos, divide fish equally among warm tortillas. Top with cabbage, Mexican white sauce and pico de gallo. Fold tortillas in half.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/ RECIPE ON THIS PAGE APPEARS IN 200 EASY MEXICAN RECIPES: AUTHENTIC RECIPES FROM BURRITOS TO ENCHILADAS BY KELLEY CLEARY COFFEEN (ROBERT ROSE INC. 2013).

Ingredients

Mexican White Sauce
- 175 ml (3/4 cup) mayonnaise
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) plain yogurt
- Juice of 1 lime

Pico de gallo
- 4 tomatoes, seeded and diced
- 4 green onions, green parts only, minced
- 3 jalapeno peppers, 2 serrano chile peppers, seeded and minced
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 2 tbsp minced cilantro
- juice of 2 limes
- kosher salt

Batter
- 250 ml (1 cup) all-purpose flour
- 175 ml (3/4 cup) light beer
- 5 ml (1 tsp) kosher salt

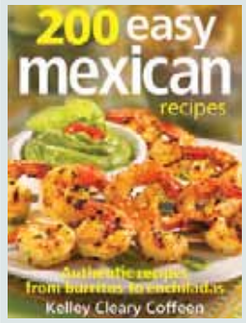
Tacos
- 750 g (1 1/2 lb) skinless cod or tilapia fillets
- Vegetable oil
- 8 flour tortillas
- 250 ml (1 cup) each shredded red and green cabbage

Fresh Baja Fish Tacos

This recipe serves eight. THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

Cookbook of the Week

Mexican simplified



Using authentic Mexican recipes as her inspiration, Kelley Cleary Coffeen releases her book 200 Easy Mexican Recipes.

Made with ingredients easily found at local grocery stores, the dishes featured in the book are quick to make, easy to serve and affordable.

Among the aromatic and flavourful dishes found in the book are: Shrimp Ceviche, Green Chile and Chicken Tacos, Shredded Beef Chimichanga, Burrito Bowls, and Caramel Flan. **METRO**

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metro

SUMMER FUN

Thursday, May 16, 2013

Long weekend and fresh air

A recent survey found that the top long weekend chore for many Canadians will be gardening and landscaping. HEMERA/THINKSTOCK

With the late arrival of spring, Canadians are thinking more about their spring to-do lists than relaxing this upcoming long weekend.

According to a recent Ipsos Reid Public Affairs survey commissioned by Canadian Tire, 82 per cent of Canadians surveyed agree that the May long weekend is the ideal time to tackle spring chores. This weekend Canadians are rolling up their sleeves, with those planning on doing spring chores spending an average of nine hours checking off their to-do lists. The top long weekend chores for these Canadians are gardening and landscaping (65 per cent), window cleaning (59 per cent) and storing and organizing seasonal items (57 per cent).

In true Canadian style, of those who plan to tackle spring chores, four in 10 (38 per cent) say they are actually looking forward to these seasonal jobs and 85 per cent are motivated to get started. In addition, half of those doing chores plan to spend time with their families as they complete jobs around the home.

"The warm weather is finally here, it's great to see that Canadians are excited to take on their home to-do lists this long weekend, and to do it with a smile," said David DeMelo, category business manager, Canadian Tire. "The survey results show that Canadians want to get their homes into shape so that they can spend time relaxing with their families and friends the rest of the season."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

SUMMER is here

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Vodka is the most popular spirit in Canada, according to a recent Vinexpo survey. ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK

Survey. Toasting to spirits growth

A recent Vinexpo study confirms that Canada will maintain its impressive growth rate with regard to wine consumption between 2012 and 2016 (plus 14.27 per cent), three times greater than the global average.

Between 2007 and 2011, wine consumption in Canada increased by 14.55 per cent, for a total of 43.21 million cases consumed in 2011. By 2016, this rate should stay the course, reaching 50.70 million cases, representing 14.27 per cent increase between 2012 and 2016, three times greater than the average international growth.

Consumption trends are stable, with a 17.49 per cent increase in red wine consumption between 2012 and 2016, representing 61.7 per cent of Canada's still wine consumption, while rosés continue their rapid ascension, with a 45.41 per cent boost between 2012 and 2016.

As for value, sales figure growth keeps pace with volumes, with wine sales in Canada expected to increase by 14.75 per cent, for a total of $5.7 billion in 2016.

Import wine consumption is going strong, totalling 31.27 million cases in 2011 and expected to post 37.59 million cases by 2016, representing a 17 per cent increase. However, the domestic wine consumption rate is likely to drop slightly (to 7.72 per cent from 10.71 per cent) by 2016.

Coming as a major change since 2011, France has lost its status as Canada's foremost supplier to Italy, whose exports to Canada posted a 16.1 per cent increase, while France saw its Canada-bound exports drop by 3.74 per cent.

According to the Vinexpo study, world spirits consumption should stabilize, posting a 8.98 per cent growth rate increase by 2016, well below its 32.64 per cent growth between 2007 and 2011.

In Canada, spirits consumption should grow by 3.70 per cent between 2012 and 2016. This accelerated growth stems from an increase in import spirits consumption (plus 4.16 per cent) in 2012 and a drop in domestic spirits.

Vodka, the most popular spirit in Canada (4.76 million cases in 2011), is expected to grow by 9.83 per cent between 2012 and 2016. It is followed by rum, which saw its consumption rate increase by 6.55 per cent between 2007 and 2011. **VINEXPO**

Make your home warm and inviting

Friends, family, neighbours. Take the craziness out of unexpected visits with a little planning

In the warmth and sunshine of summer, Canadians open their doors, get outside and take full advantage of the barbecue season. It seems like every weekend is packed full of visits with friends, families and neighbours.

In fact, it's often those unexpected visits that turn out to be the most fun, even if it causes a mad rush to tidy the house and dig into the cupboards to pull together a meal everyone will enjoy.

Take the craziness out of unexpected visits with a little advanced planning.

It's called seasonal pantry loading and it helps families to be ready for whatever their summer has to offer. Rather than buying what you need for a specific period of time, stock your pantry with those items that can easily be stored and help you provide a quick and tasty meal at a moment's notice.

For example, all-in-one serving kits are always good to have on hand — such as taco or salad kits. Have options ready so all you need is to add your core fresh ingredient and you have a meal.

As Linda Woolsey, vice-president research and development from ET TU Salad Kits, explains, "You want to make any visit memorable, whether planned or not. The one thing we've learned is that guests always appreciate great food. Being prepared with easy pantry items can help you focus on your guests, spend more time enjoying delicious meals and less time on stressing and cooking."

So next time you take a trip to the grocery store, consider those items that will help you be prepared anytime, any day.

NEWS CANADA

Thyme-Rubbed Flank Steak with Balsamic Pearl Onions. NEWS CANADA

Recipe. Thyme-Rubbed Flank Steak with Balsamic Pearl Onions

According to a recent Grill-Watch survey, steak tops the list as the all time favourite food to grill, according to 44 per cent of respondents. This steak recipe from Weber's New Real Grilling cookbook is quick and easy to prepare and perfect for a weekday dinner.

Ingredients

- ¾ cup water
- ½ cup balsamic vinegar
- 2 tbsp honey
- 1½ tsp tomato paste
- 1 large bay leaf
- 1 package (14 ounces) frozen pearl onions, thawed
- 3½ tsp finely chopped fresh thyme leaves, divided
- 2 tsp kosher salt, divided
- 1 tsp freshly ground black pepper, divided
- 1 flank steak, about 1½ pounds and ¾-inch thick
- 1 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil
- Fresh thyme sprigs (optional)

1 In a large skillet combine the water, vinegar, honey, tomato paste, and bay leaf. Add the onions and bring to a simmer over medium-low heat. Cover and simmer for 10 minutes, stirring occasionally. Uncover the skillet and increase the heat to high. Boil until the liquid starts to thicken and is reduced to 4 to 5 tablespoons, about 5 minutes. Remove from the heat and stir in 1½ teaspoons of the thyme, 1 teaspoon of the salt, and ½ teaspoon of the pepper. The sauce will continue to thicken as it cools. If necessary, add water, 1 tablespoon at a time, to thin the mixture to your desired consistency.

2 Combine the remaining 2 teaspoons thyme, 1 teaspoon salt, and ½ teaspoon pepper. Brush the steak on both sides with the oil and season evenly with the spice mixture, pressing the spices into the meat. Allow the steak to stand at room temperature for 15 to 30 minutes before grilling.

3 Prepare the grill for direct cooking over medium heat (350 to 450 F).

4 Grill the steak over direct medium heat, with the lid closed, until cooked to your desired doneness, 8 to 10 minutes for medium rare, turning once or twice. Remove from the grill and let rest for 3 to 5 minutes. Cut the steak across the grain into thin slices. Serve immediately with the onions and their sauce. Garnish with thyme, if using. Serves four. Prep time: 15 minutes. Grilling time: 8 to 10 minutes.

NEWS CANADA

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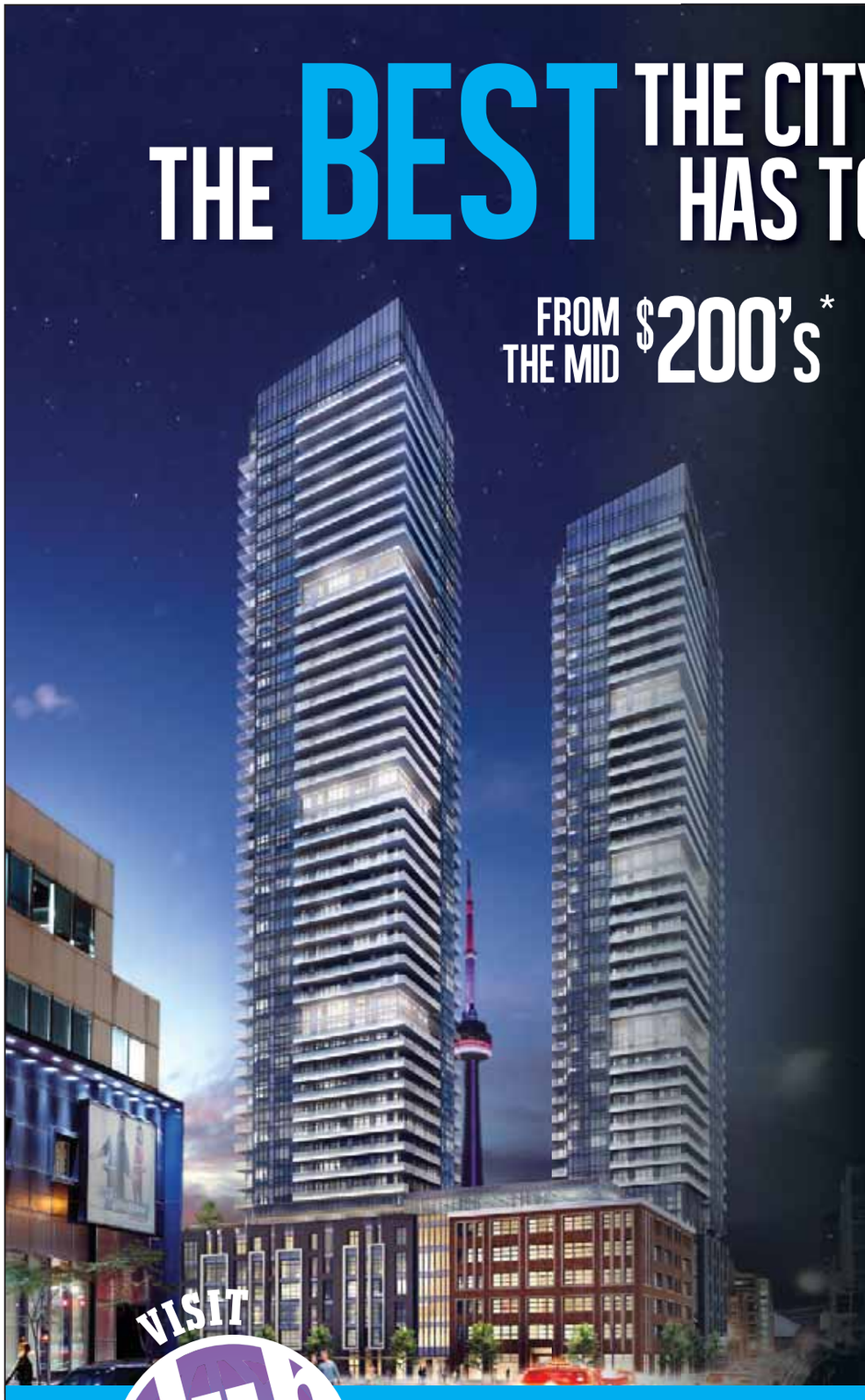

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Spoil yourself with a spa bathroom

Whether you're considering a spring renovation or a simple spruce-up to the bathroom, now's a great time to add some luxury touches. This often utilitarian room can be the go-to spot for pampering yourself. All you need to do is introduce a few elements such as lighting, music and accessories. And with summer almost here, the more skin you show the more pampered your skin will need to be, so you better get busy on the bath. Here's a few necessities to help.

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

Lighting

Choose lighting that is flexible enough to be used for daily makeup application at its brightest and that can be dimmed to give a relaxing tone to the room. Tip: Add dimmer switches to everything and look for frosted glass shades to diffuse light. Pimlico Swing Arm Sconce, $375, restorationhardware.com.

Music

Soft, soothing sounds can turn your plain bathroom into a musical oasis, so why not build it into the ceilings — or right into your shower. The Moxie Shower Head and Wireless Speaker has a portable wireless speaker that connects to any Blue-tooth device to offer up your favourite tunes while in the shower. $230, kohler.ca.

Baskets

A basket dedicated to your spa treatments helps with clutter control in the bathroom. Soft-feeling felt woven bins, Clean Slate Woven Felt Bin set, $83, crateandbarrel.com.

Towels

Keep a set of special towels on hand specifically for your spa time. All-cotton towels in soothing neutral colours, GlucksteinHome Spa Collection Towels, $23, thebay.com.

Tub

Got room for a large tub? Why not make it large enough for two? Perfectly smooth air jets around the tub's perimeter help to sooth and relax aching muscles while bathing in ultimate modern style. Studio Ever-Clean Air Bath, from $2,900. americanstandard.ca.

Candle

Adding scent to your spa experience will change the feeling of the room. Clear your mind while uplifting your spirits with Stress Relief Eucalyptus Spearmint candles, $24, bathandbodyworks.com.

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Restoration project on Yonge

The five-storey façade will become the main entrance to a 48-storey condominium. SUBMITTED

Meet the condo

- **What.** Five condominiums at St. Joseph
- **Builder.** Graywood Developments and MOD Developments
- **Location.** Yonge and Wellesley
- **Website.** fivecondos.com
- **Pricing.** From $374,900 to $1,150,900

The project overview

This impressive new complex incorporates one of the biggest restoration projects in the city. The five-storey, 1905 Gothic revival façade at 5 St. Joseph will become the main entrance to the condominium. Above it, a modern Hariri Pontarini-designed tower will rise to 48 storeys.

Location and transit

Conveniently situated between both the Bloor Street and Wellesley Street subway stations, you'll be quickly on your way. With easy highway access and lots of downtown bike lanes, you're into the downtown core in minutes.

In the neighbourhood

The very best of Toronto is available to you along this highly-animated stretch of Yonge Street steps from the shops on Bloor, a.k.a. Canada's mink mile, a diverse selection of restaurants, cafés and night spots, as well as theatres and galleries.

Building amenities

The Five on Five offers a complete package for fitness and fun including a steam room, fitness centre, and change rooms. The Garden on Two is a tempting urban escape and terraced rooftop. There's also a concierge service, party room and bicycle room.

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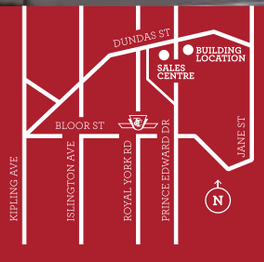

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Rooftop Surfing

Helping the economy grow

BRYAN TUCKEY
President and CEO of the Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD) can be found at twitter.com/bildgta, facebook.com/bildgta, and bildblogs.ca.

I was very pleased with a recent report released by TD Economics, which recognizes the building and development industry as a key contributor to the economic prosperity of the GTA.

The report features a section on housing, and analyzes the effect of the recent housing boom on our region's economy. The economists took stock of direct and indirect jobs, housing sales and construction and wrote: "when all of these broad impacts are considered, we estimate that the housing boom accounted for as much as one quarter of overall economic growth and job creation in the city-region over the past decade. This contribution has been especially pronounced over the past five years."

This is truly an incredibly statistic and further reinforces the value of the building and development industry as an economic driver.

According to the Canadian Home Builders' Association, more than 202,000 jobs were created in new home construction, renovation and related fields just in 2012 alone. Those jobs generated more than $10.8 billion in wages and are later seen as purchases all over the GTA, further boosting our growing economy.

If you are reading this article on a bus, train or streetcar, I think you'd be pleasantly surprised to learn that at least one of the people sitting to the left, right or directly across from you is employed by the building and development industry. These are builders, developers, planners, designers, tradespeople, manufacturers, suppliers, marketers and salespeople. The list goes on!

Chances are that your commute will take you past a construction site today, whether it's a low-rise community of singles, semis or towns, or a high-rise condominium development. In the low-rise sector, about 200 people typically work to build a single home. That number jumps to as high as 500 in the high-rise sector. Think of that the next time you see a construction crane.

Our members are extremely proud of our contribution to the economic growth of the GTA and I am equally proud to be employed by this industry as president and CEO of BILD.

What's hot on the condo market

1. Mississauga

Don't miss Daniels First Home Hazelton Place Phase II preview. May 22, from 12 to 8 p.m. Head over to 2891 Rio Court in Mississauga.

CONTACT: CALL 905-814-0123 OR VISIT DANIELSFIRSTHOME.CA

2. Royal York

Qube condos at Royal York and The Queensway. Be the first to preview before their spring launch. Presentation centre at 701 The Queensway.

CONTACT: CALL 647-351-7823 OR VISIT QUBECONDOS.COM

3. Yonge & Eg

New Release: Check out Tridel's 101 Erskine, their highly-anticipated signature townhomes. Presentation centre is located at 2611 Yonge St., north of Eglinton.

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4. Oakville

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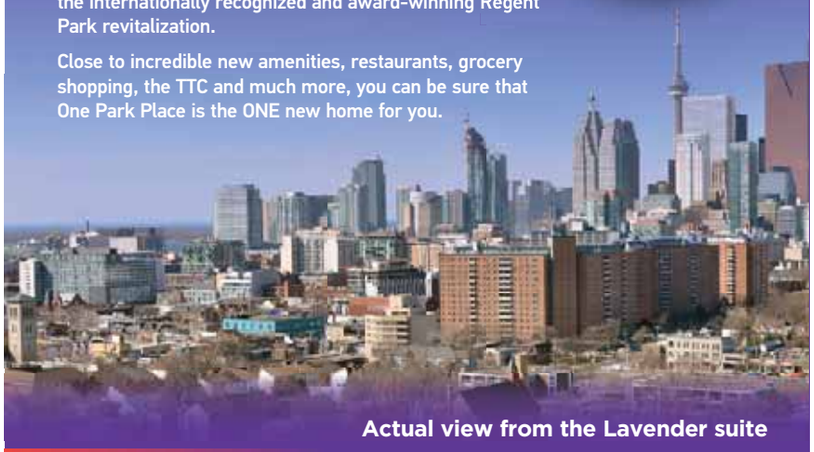

Actual view from the Lavender suite

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Four ways you can modernize your backyard this season

Outdoor. Tips from celebrity landscape designer Carson Arthur just in time for May long weekend

Garden art adds visual interest to spaces where plants can't grow.
STEVE LAWRENCE

We all have our spring backyard rituals to help create the perfect summer retreat, but sometimes you want to do a little more to upgrade your space.

Maybe your deck needs a little love or you're just looking to bring new life to your outdoor spaces.

No matter what your backyard ambition is this summer, here are the top four outdoor improvements I'm going to be doing in my own spaces.

1. Make room for veggies and herbs

I'm always encouraging homeowners to remove a strip of grass and replace it with a veggie and herb garden.

Lawns suck up more water, fertilizers, insecticides, herbicides and fungicides than anything else on our properties. Growing veggies is lower maintenance, convenient and still gives you that green backyard look. I'm trying some new varieties of lettuce, heirloom tomatoes, Thai basil and zucchini, for the blossoms. Growing your own food is satisfying and you know exactly what you are eating and where it came from because you grew it yourself.

Plus, this fits in perfectly with the local eating movement. What's more local than your own backyard?

2. Resurface your deck with a wood that doesn't require staining so you can enjoy your backyard sooner and with a lot less effort

Maintaining the look of your wooden deck is important, but the ritual of sanding and staining can become overwhelming every spring.

Fortunately, new technology by MicroPro Sienna takes a lot of the work out of deck maintenance.

I'll be using MicroPro Sienna for my new cottage deck, this environmentally friendly alternative to the classic pressure-treated wood comes ready to install in a rich cedar tone, can be used in water and works well with aluminum fasteners and details.

This new type of pressure-treated wood is versatile for any outdoor project. It is going to be perfect at my cottage, and all of my guests will think I spent a lot on cedar.

3. Use garden art to update your outdoor spaces and solve some of your garden dilemmas

Some spaces in the garden just won't grow plants. My fans and clients always ask for different options, but nothing seems to work.

Why not add something that looks great and requires no care? My favourite garden art includes metal sculptures that look great when they rust and wooden obelisks that I can grow vines on.

Other materials that work well outdoors include mirrors, glass, terra-cotta pots and jars and handmade pottery. Not only is there no

Upgraded decks using MicroPro Sienna look great right away and updated outdoor furnishings, like this daybed, make the backyard a comfortable and functional extension of your home. BOB GUNDU

maintenance, art in the garden is an easy way to have a creative space that is uniquely yours.

4. Bring the indoors out

Outdoor furniture is no longer about striped or floral pillows on a patio set.

The latest outdoor furniture uses stain and water resistant knitted fabrics, graphic prints and bold motifs to mimic the look and feel of its indoor cousins. With these stunning new options, every homeowner can create their dream outdoor room.

I am stepping it up on the patio this year by investing in a resin wicker and aluminum set, which is rustproof and made from recycled plastic. Stylish and eco-friendly all at the same time!

Be smart about the choices you are going to make this year in your own outdoor spaces.

Think about the way you want to spend your summer days. Make choices that allow you to have the quality of life you deserve.

In place of plants

My favourite garden art includes metal sculptures that look great when they rust and wooden obelisks that I can grow vines on.

Carson Arthur

Carson Arthur

When not in the dirt with his eco-friendly landscape design company, Carson stays busy building, planting, writing or designing as a featured guest on CityLine, Steven & Chris, and as a contributing writer for Wal-Mart's upcoming retail magazine. Carson is also now the outdoor expert for Better Homes and Gardens Dream Team as featured on the U.S.'s Better TV. You can check him out at carsonarthur.com.

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Mod Croc rectangular placements

New York designer Sandy Chilewich continues to experiment with her woven vinyl material, producing an array of textured mats in neutrals, metallics and colours. chilewich.com.

PopMat paper placemats

Artist Lian Ng makes paper placemats with clever and charming cutout designs like trees, safari animals, hearts and butterflies that are inspired by children's pop-up books. He will do custom designs as well. Mats are sold in packs of 10. publiqueshop.com.

The placemat is a favourite at many dinner tables. The often-whimsical plastic version catches the slip of spaghetti from a youngster's fork, while a nice cotton placemat elevates the dining experience just a little without having to set down a whole tablecloth. Placemats are a relatively inexpensive addition to dining-room decor, and can also be used on portable trays or big coffee tables if meals are served unconventionally. Here are a few new spring options from retailers and designers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

4 Ways to dress up your dinner table with placemats

Pressed filigree placemats

Sandy Chilewich's finely embossed ornamental design is created with a one of a kind mould and is spot printed with metallic foil to suggest the weathered look of a delicate old textile, although the mat itself is durable vinyl.

Woven vinyl placemat

Check out Sandy Chilewich's new large-scale abstract Brush Dot silkscreened design on her signature woven vinyl placemat that comes in blush, green apple, pool and black.

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Home for sale? Give it maximum eye appeal by staging it before you show

Designing. Staging your home gives it that welcoming atmosphere

LINDA LABAN
Metro World News

If your home's For Sale sign is becoming a fixture, still there in this red-hot spring real estate market, you might be doing something wrong.

Staging is what designers do to give a home maximum eye appeal. Ave Bradley, Kimpton Hotels' vice president of design, is responsible for creating welcoming atmospheres that appeal to a wide group of people, which is exactly the effect a home seller wants.

"The important thing is to create a space that's warm and inviting, a place people want to linger," says Bradley.

She tells us how to get our home ready for prospective buyers.

Bag the clutter ... and the laundry

"Never underestimate the impact of clutter. A room that's clean and well organized is more inviting. Also, I don't want to see the remnants of someone else's life. I don't want to see their toothbrush, or their bra on a sofa! Throw everything in a trash bag and put it in a cabinet."

Say it with flowers, not food

"Nothing is more welcoming than flowers. I like to see a big, vibrant, fresh flower arrangement.

"Put one in the bathroom and the living room. I see people offering these extravagant food spreads. It's just not necessary. Also, be careful about cooking smells like bacon or fish. People want to smell lemon or lavender when they walk in, not pizza."

Paint walls a neutral colour

"In older Victorian- or Spanish-style homes, strong colours work.

"For most modern homes, a neutral but warm scheme is best: taupe, celadon green, white. The same goes for furniture. The bigger and bolder, the fewer people can relate. It increases the sale chances if a room's colours are quiet and people can imagine their lives there."

Bring on sunshine and smiles

"It's important to get the right broker with a welcoming attitude.

"When you walk in, you don't want to see a selling agent who's arrogant. And open up drapery — there's nothing more off-putting than walking into a place with the drapes drawn.

"It reminds people of sickness. Let the sunlight shine in."

It goes without saying that a room that's clean and organized is a lot more inviting. ISTOCK IMAGES

Looks like common sense is contagious.

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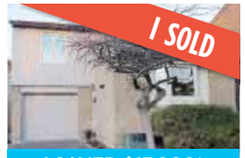

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Virtual concierge right out of futuristic movie

Condo security. The tele-security service is a great use of technology, but can it replace a real person?

CONDO TRENDS
Duncan McAllister
life@metronews.ca

A full-time, on-site concierge or security guard is a sought-after amenity in many condos that may put your mind at ease, but the extra cost can be a drain on the building's reserve fund.

The virtual concierge is the latest trend in new condo security, pioneered in Toronto by Tridel at their Reve condominiums. Straight out of a futuristic movie, the innovative tele-security service is a great use of technology.

Vanessa Singh is a virtual concierge. She handles the typical tasks of a concierge such as greeting residents, accepting parcels, making phone calls for taxis, offering restaurant recommendations in addition to providing a security presence for the building. The only difference is, she does it from 30 kilometres away.

The system of 50 security cameras, motion sensors and video and voice technology allows for remote viewing and monitoring from an off-site control centre. One person can monitor several buildings, parking lots and construction sites with Cisco-enabled technology, which can save a significant amount on on-site staff costs.

David Hyde is a Toronto security and crime prevention consultant with 22 years of property management experience.

He says the virtual concierge is fine, "but it's not going to patrol the grounds, it's not going to leave the desk and walk around, it is not going to deter criminals from coming through the lobby or doing anything nefarious."

Unfortunately, condo security is often a tough sell to the cost-adverse condo board, and isn't often implemented until something's happened.

"Very often security isn't an issue until it becomes an issue. Security tends to be one of those things that's put alongside removing snow and housekeeping and maintenance of the common elements and it's very often the fact that security isn't really prioritized until there's some break-ins, until there's an assault of a resident, until there's a break into some vehicles in the underground parking," says Hyde.

With all the new high-tech devices, sensors, cameras and computers, Hyde says some of the most effective security measures are just common sense. He advises condo residents to be vigilant about their surroundings. "We go about, we feel very comfortable, and we're not really switched on. We're not really looking at who followed us into the parking garage, which car just followed their way in, or if somebody suspicious is hanging around or if somebody comes to the door and we just let them in. And all of those, that's how criminals perpetrate their crimes."

Virtual concierge Vanessa Singh handles concierge tasks from 30 km away. COURTESY OF TRIDEL

The virtual concierge is shown here at Tridel's Reve condo. COURTESY OF TRIDEL

- ADVERTISEMENT -

The views are priceless Lago by Monarch

A luxury resort style condominium; Lago by Monarch is over 75 percent sold at Toronto's Humber Bay's master planned waterfront community. Lago offers contemporary resort living unlike anything the Toronto waterfront has ever seen with priceless views from sunrise to sunset.

Inspired by water, designed by Graziani + Corazza Architects, Lago's glass tower will rise 49 storeys with a three storey podium overlooking the vibrant Waterview community. Lago will stand as a distinctive landmark, just blocks from the heart of Toronto's downtown core. The ccontinuous wrap around balconies will maximize on panoramic views of Lake Ontario while introducing a distinct and signature geometric form to the Toronto waterfront skyline.

The neighbourhood is pedestrian-friendly as homeowners stroll, bike or run along Lake Ontario and the Martin Goodman Trail, stopping at intimate cafes, enjoy a sparkling nightlife on the water, and a workplace on their doorstep.

When not spending time on the lake, homeowners will be working out in the building's resort style fitness centre and relaxing by the indoor swimming pool. It is all about lifestyle and Lago promises to be a great place to live.

There is still a good selection of suites still available ranging from studios, to penthouse units with prices starting at just $199,990.

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Legal Matters

Paying city taxes on a monthly plan

We are selling our home next month and we have been paying our taxes on a monthly instalment plan with the city for a number of years. It is automatic debit and our lawyer has advised us that we should cancel the monthly withdrawals so the city doesn't continue to take money from our account after we have sold our family home. The legal office indicated that we needed to pay for the outstanding amount up front so that the taxes would be properly adjusted, and not in arrears. What is this all about?

Your lawyer is correct. If you are on a monthly instalment plan for your taxes, once you cancel the monthly payments, your taxes for that half of the year become payable up to the date of closing.

The basics behind this are that property taxes are usually due in six instalments: three for the first half of the year and three for the final half of the year.

The city has been "nice" to you, allowing you to spread those payments over the entire year. Once you put an end to the monthly payment scheme, you are liable for the half-year taxes that are due and payable.

This may be confusing for some, but you should be aware of this when it comes to taxes.

LEGAL MATTERS
Jeffrey Cowan
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A better way to cook, iron and clean

Now you're cookin'

Outdoor cooking has progressed way beyond the hibachi. The Memphis woof pellet grill is a versatile cooker that can be used as a grill, a smoker or a convection oven. Home chefs can use it for everything from traditional barbecue fare to bread and pizza. The grill uses wood pellets rather than gas or charcoal, which improves the taste of the food and reduces waste.

Scoop it up

Scooping the litter box is a daily chore for cat owners. Unless they have a self-scooping box. The Litter-Robot sifts the litter, rather than raking it. The manufacturer claims that this makes the mechanism less likely to jam or clog. The waster drawer will hold several days' worth of used litter. Plus, of course, it has that whole futuristic kitties-in-space look.

Open sesame

Car owners have come to rely on their remote-control lock openers, and now that technology is available for the home. The SimpliciKey allows you to open the deadbolt on your door with a key, a key fob, or a keypad on the door. They're promising a web app later this year that will allow you to access the lock remotely. So, for instance, you can let in the repair person when you're not there. Installation is easy, and doesn't require drilling any additional holes or other preparation.

It's rare to find an appliance that completely reinvents how you do household chores. But that doesn't mean there's nothing new out there. Manufacturers are always working on designs that can save you time and help you use energy more wisely. Here are six new thingamabobs that can make your life easier — and maybe save you a few bucks, too.

JUDY WEIGHTMAN
Metro World News

Cut and dried

Whether you have a garden or you just love shopping at the farmers market, as we head into spring and summer we're all looking forward to plenty of fresh, local fruits and veggies. With a food dehydrator like the Excalibur, you can grow (or buy) extras and preserve them for next winter, purée fruit and make your own preservative-free fruit roll-ups and create trail mix and other food for hiking and camping. These give-tray colour models have adjustable temperatures and a 26-hour timer.

Pressing business

One important home appliance that hasn't gotten an energy-saving redesign is the iron — until now.

The Rowenta eco-Intelligence Iron's soleplate (pressing surface) concentrates the steam on the fabric, which saves on both water and energy.

The manufacturer claims that using it on the "Eco" setting can reduce energy use by 25 per cent.

Blowin' in the wind

Dyson, the company that reinvented the vacuum cleaner, has reinvented the fan as well.

The fan with Air Multiplier technology wowed consumers with its sleek bladeless look, and they've just released a model that increases the air velocity, and cooling effect, by 33 per cent — and adds a heating element as well. According to Dyson, the AM05 can heat a whole room for about 30 per cent less than a conventional fan heater.

During the summer, use it to increase the effectiveness of your air conditioner — they estimate you can lower your energy bills by 20 per cent.

LEWIS HONEY
TOWNS & SEMIS IN AURORA

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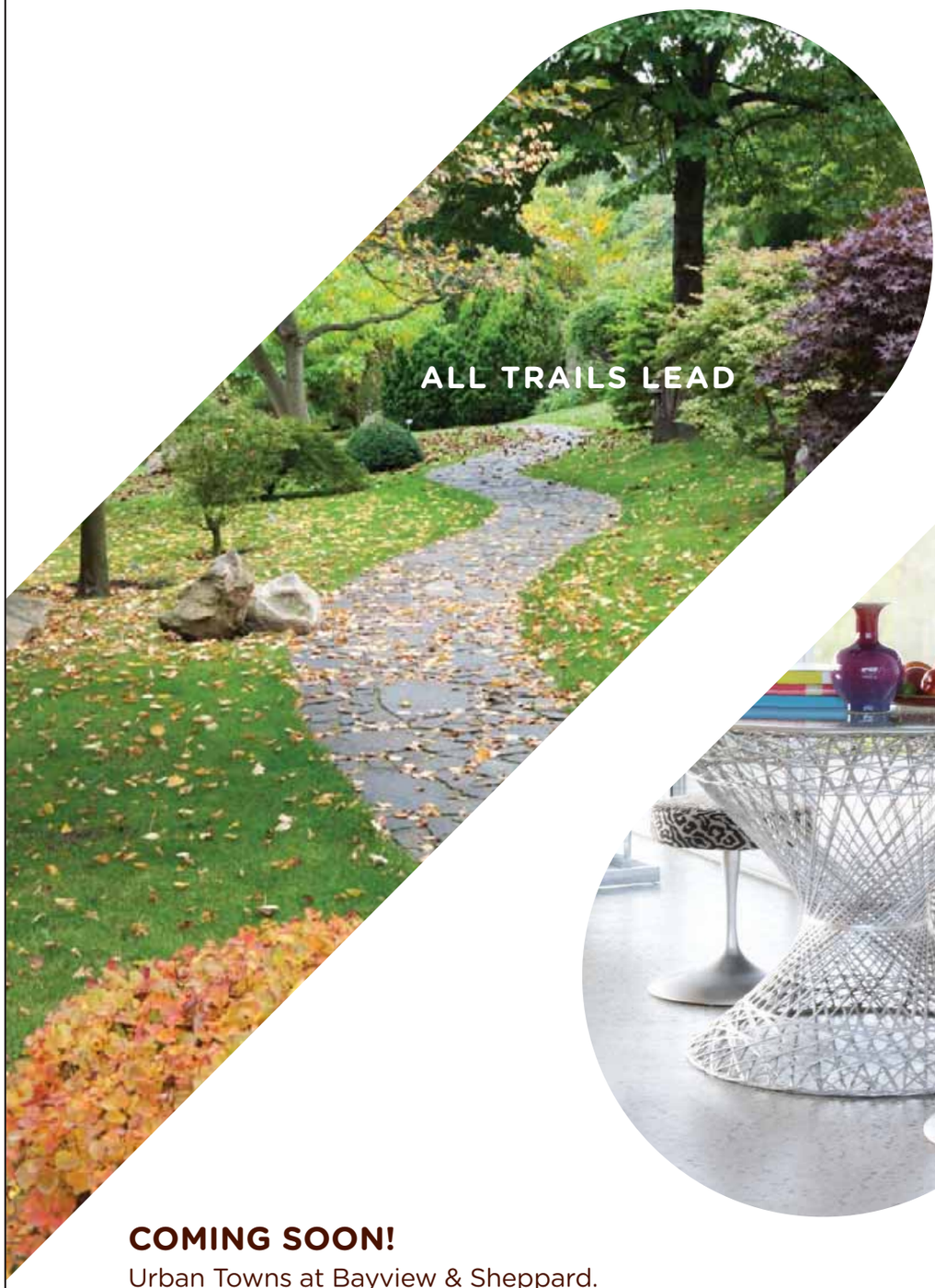

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AHL playoffs

Marlies' rally falls short in Michigan

The Toronto Marlies battled back from a two-goal deficit but couldn't complete the comeback Wednesday night, losing 5-4 to the Grand Rapids Griffins in Game 3 of the AHL Western Conference semifinals.

The Griffins now own a 2-1 series lead entering Game 4 in Grand Rapids.

If Toronto had gained any momentum after a 4-2 home win in Game 2, it disappeared quickly after they allowed a pair of goals in the first six minutes of play on Wednesday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL playoffs

Bruins in tough vs. stingy Rangers

Putting the puck past Henrik Lundqvist is a huge challenge for the Boston Bruins.

Of course, they have to get it to him first and that's a tough task against the shot-blocking New York Rangers.

"They're definitely going to be laying down to block those shots," Boston forward Patrice Bergeron said Wednesday ahead of Thursday's second-round opener. "We have to be aware of that."

On Monday night, it seemed the Bruins wouldn't have to worry about that. They rallied from a three-goal deficit in the third period and beat the Toronto Maple Leafs 5-4 in Game 7.

"You don't give up," Bruins forward Jaromir Jagr said. "(But) if you try to do it again, you're probably not going to do it even if you try 100 times, but it happened."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jays unleash colossal offence to topple Giants

Edwin Encarnacion, top, and Jose Bautista round third base to score during the Jays' five-run first inning on Wednesday night. TOM SZCZERBOWSKI/GETTY IMAGES

MLB. Toronto pounces on early San Francisco errors in 4th-straight win

Adam Lind and J.P. Arencibia homered and starter Ramon Ortiz turned in a solid seven-inning performance as the Toronto Blue Jays crushed the San Francisco Giants 11-3 on Wednesday night.

The Blue Jays took advantage of some ugly San Francisco defence in a five-run first inning. They added three more runs in the next frame and the rout was on.

Ortiz (1-1) allowed one earned run and six hits as Toronto (17-24) swept the two-game interleague mini-series and extended its winning streak to a season-high four games. Giants starter Ryan Vogelsong (1-4) lasted just two innings, giving up six hits, eight runs — three of them earned — and two walks.

San Francisco (23-17) opened the scoring on a comfortable, breezy night at Rogers Centre. Angel Pagan led off the first inning with a ground-rule double, moved to third on a sacrifice bunt by Marco Scutaro and scored on a Pablo Sandoval sacrifice fly.

Scutaro and Pagan both made errors in the bottom half of the frame.

Jose Bautista reached base when Scutaro dropped a pop-up in shallow right field. Edwin Encarnacion walked and Arencibia hit a sinking liner that Pagan flubbed in centre field, allowing two runs to score.

Lind followed with a two-run shot — his third homer of the season — and Emilio Bonifacio later added an RBI single. Munenori Kawasaki hit into a double play to end the threat.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

On Wednesday

11	3
Blue Jays	Giants

NBA playoffs. Heat finish Bulls in Game 5

A fast start and faster finish were enough to send the Miami Heat back to the Eastern Conference final.

LeBron James scored 23 points, Dwyane Wade added 18 and the Heat rallied from an 11-point second-half deficit to beat the Chicago Bulls 94-91 on Wednesday night and close out their second-round series in five games.

Chris Bosh scored 12 points and Udonis Haslem added 10 for Miami, which ran out to a 22-4 lead, then was outscored by a whopping 29 points over the next 27 minutes before recovering. The Heat outscored the Bulls 25-14 in the fourth.

Carlos Boozer finished with 26 points and 14 rebounds for the Bulls, who were without Derrick Rose for the 99th-straight game. Nate Robinson and Jimmy Butler missed potential tying three-pointers on the final possession of the season for Chicago, which dropped the last four games of the series.

Robinson scored 21 points, Butler had 19, and Richard Hamilton 15 for the Bulls.

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Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh embrace after Wednesday's win.
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Oh, the horror! Leafs not out of woods just yet

THE HOCKEY NEWS
Adam Proteau
toronto@metronews.ca

Forgetting about the Maple Leafs' stunning Game 7 collapse in Boston is easier said than done. In fact, I'd say it can't be done. Do you forget the first time you saw Friday the 13th or Halloween? You don't. The scariest horror movies are designed to stay with you long after you've stumbled, slack-jawed and trembling, out of the theatre.

So forget about forgetting about Game 7. It's now as much a part of this team's history — and fans' jittery psyches — as any of Toronto's Stanley Cup wins. However, as some of us have said all along, you have to take the bigger picture into account before passing judgment on the current crop of Leafs players. No team benefits from rash decisions made in the wake of agonizing disasters.

Leafs captain Dion Phaneuf shakes hands with Boston's Zdeno Chara after Monday night's Game 7 loss. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The real judgment day for the organization is years from now. With such a young roster and key components (e.g. defenceman Morgan Rielly) still developing, the date for the Leafs' full blossom is at least a couple years away. But that's not to say Toronto's management team doesn't have important decisions to make this off-season and in the very near future.

Buds' best yet to come

"With such a young roster and key components (e.g. defenceman Morgan Rielly) still developing, the date for the Leafs' full blossom is at least a couple years away."

The good news is, Leafs assistant GM and resident salary-cap expert Claude Loiselle has put Toronto in excellent shape this summer when the cap ceiling drops from the current $70.2 million to $64.3 million. The Leafs have $19.4 million in available cap space, a drastic contrast from the situation facing teams such as the Flyers, Canucks, Blackhawks and Lightning — and the Leafs will be an attractive trade option for teams looking to unload salary.

Then there's the free agent market, which this summer may be the worst in recent memory. No real superstars are available, but players like Devils winger David Clarkson or Jets defenceman Ron Hainsey will command big bucks by being the best talent available.

The trick for the Leafs on both the trade and free-agent fronts is to not overpay simply because they have the cap space. In any horror film, the hero outlasts the monster. For the Leafs, the monster is short-term expectations and money to spend.

Fans are shrieking and shaking right now, but calm and cold calculation in the face of anguish and heartbreak is exactly what the plot calls for.

CFL. Mitchell has changed tune on T.O., Barker says

After trying to trade him back to the West, Toronto Argonauts general manager Jim Barker expects former CFL all-star defensive lineman Khalif Mitchell to be on the field when training camp opens in less than three weeks.

With their defensive line decimated, the defending Grey Cup champions certainly could use the 28-year-old controversial, aggressive pass rusher, who initially insisted he wouldn't report to the Argos after Barker acquired him in a trade on April 2 from the B.C. Lions.

Barker admitted on Wednesday that Mitchell asked for the Argos to trade him — and he tried to accommodate him — but wasn't successful.

"He's been nothing but professional with me. He requested a trade to the West. I tried to move him but I'm certainly not going to just give him away. Our fans deserve more," Barker said on Wednesday during a conference call with members of the media.

Mitchell was adamant after the trade that he wouldn't play for Toronto. He loved the laid-back West Coast lifestyle. He also just became involved in a West Coast-based herbal energy-drink business, something he intends to pursue full-time after his playing days are over. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Quoted

"He is excited about coming to Toronto. Once football starts, it will be all about football."

Argos GM Jim Barker on defensive lineman Khalif Mitchell, who resisted a trade to Toronto earlier in the off-season.

Canadian content

The Argos signed Edmonton's Cleyon Laing on Wednesday. The defensive lineman was Toronto's first pick in the 2012 CFL draft. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Jayhawks' hopes soar with Andrew Wiggins in the fold

Big man on campus. Kansas has reason for optimism with the arrival of Canadian hoops phenom

Andrew Wiggins of Vaughan speaks of his decision to join the Kansas Jayhawks on Tuesday with his father Mitchell Wiggins, a former NBA player, and his mother Marita Payne-Wiggins, a former silver-medal winning track athlete. SHOLTEN SINGER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bill Self knew after witnessing an emotional senior day that Andrew Wiggins was considering Kansas, even if the Jayhawks' coach was in the dark like everyone else while the superstar recruit made certain of his future.

For one thing, Wiggins saw on that visit in March just how beloved players are at Kansas, where icons such as James Naismith and Phog Allen have become deified.

Wiggins also saw just how many players were departing.

Four senior starters delivered farewell addresses that night. A few weeks later, star freshman Ben McLemore announced he would be declaring for the NBA draft, leaving the nine-time defending Big 12 champions looking for a bunch of guys to plug into the lineup next season.

Undoubtedly, Wiggins saw in Kansas a place where he could shine.

"I just felt like that was the place for me," the consensus No. 1-ranked recruit said after announcing his college intentions Tuesday in Huntington, W.Va. "Going to college will get me better mentally and physically in the game of basketball."

Wiggins chose the Jayhawks over overtures from Kentucky, North Carolina and Florida State, where both of his parents attended and one of his teammates will be playing next season.

Widely considered the next LeBron James — though Self compared him more closely to Tracy McGrady — the six-foot-seven Wiggins initially was part of the 2014 class, but was immediately raised to the top of this year's recruiting market when he decided to reclassify.

Originally from Vaughan, Wiggins averaged more than 23 points and 11 rebounds while leading Huntington Prep School to a 30-3 record last season.

He also dazzled scouts, most of which knew they had no chance of landing him, at the McDonald's All-American Game and Jordan Brand Classic.

The entire recruitment of Wiggins was unlike anything college basketball has seen.

Sure, he's the kind of transcendent talent that in bygone days could have jumped straight to the NBA, and that alone makes him unique. But by nature, he's a soft-spoken kid who cares little for the spotlight.

So while other top recruits string along the public before making their college decision, Wiggins kept his thoughts largely to himself throughout the process. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Raptors at a crossroads

MLSE paralyzed by GM decision

CATHAL KELLY
Special to Metro

We've reached a point where the re-hiring or firing of general manager Bryan Colangelo isn't the Raptors' real issue.

The issue is MLSE's paralysis in the face of a simple decision.

Their dithering sends this message to the fanbase: 'We've decided we don't know what to decide.'

For years, MLSE empowered Colangelo to sell a vision. It's been a little blurry out on the court, but it had the advantage of being put forth with some confidence.

What this gongshow has revealed is that, behind Colangelo, there is no confidence, no vision. There's a bunch of guys in suits specially tailored to accommodate a lot of high-friction shoulder shrugging.

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Participants can register at friendsforlifewalk.ca or ospcawalk.ca and then fundraise and gather sponsors to help support thousands of animals in desperate need of care across the province.

The Toronto event is part of the Ontario SPCA Weekend to Save Pets and begins at 9 a.m. at Coronation Park, with a three-kilometre walk along the Martin Goodman Trail.

The event kicks off with a ribbon cutting ceremony with Kim and Salmoni and will include a post-walk barbecue, refreshments and entertainment.

Not in Toronto? No problem.

Friends for Life! walkathons will also be held in communities across the province. Head over to ospcawalk.ca for a complete listing and event information.

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Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Is it OK to be ambitious? Is it OK to do better than others? Of course it is and anyone who says otherwise is not to be trusted. People are not all the same and, to be blunt, you're better than most.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
After the events of the past few days, you may want to treat yourself gently over the next 24 hours. Give yourself time to unwind and assess the full implications of the changes that have been taking place.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
You may not understand why a certain person acts the way they do but that is no reason to hold it against them. People have different personalities. You have several yourself.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
You must not agree to anything if you don't know for certain what it is going to cost. Someone with a persuasive manner will make a risky venture sound like it's a sure thing. Don't be fooled.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
When your instincts tell you one thing and friends tells you another, who do you trust? You trust your instincts, of course. Today's cosmic influences warn that people may not see things as clearly as you.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Not everything has a simple explanation and if you are smart you will dig to find out what has really been going on. Check both sides of the story.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Someone you live or work with believes you owe them something. They also believe they can sit back and let you do the work. Make sure they know that isn't going to happen.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Usually, if something feels good that's a sure sign that it is good. But today there is a real chance that what feels good could actually be bad for you. Whatever you do make sure it is done in moderation.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Don't believe everything you hear over the next 24 hours, not even if it comes from sources you know you can trust. Friends may not be trying to mislead you but they may have been misled themselves.

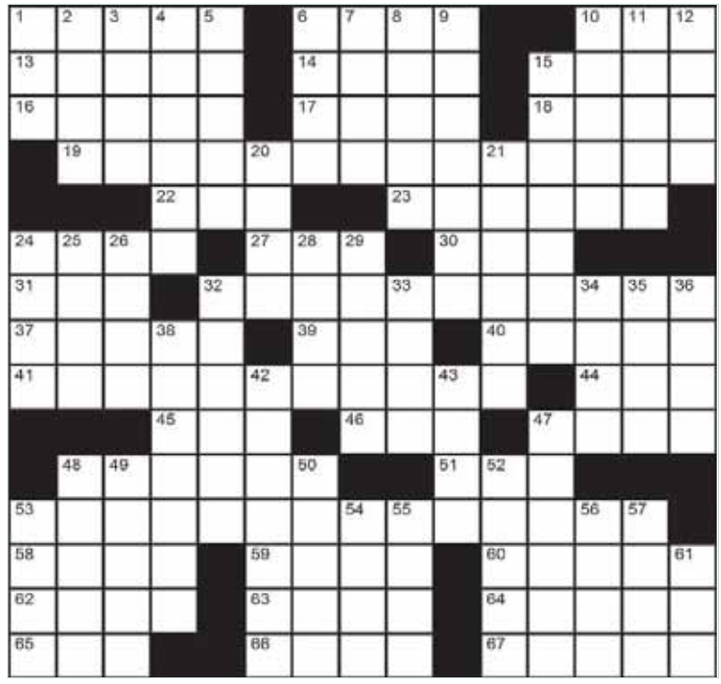
♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
The influence of Pluto in your sign makes you even more suspicious than usual. Having said that, perhaps it's a point in your favour that you insist on being shown hard evidence before you take action.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Get out into the world and make things happen. The world is full of people who talk a good game, but very few who actually do something positive. Be one of the latter.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
If you have made a promise, you must keep it. If you try to wriggle out of it, your rep will suffer. You enjoyed short-term benefits, now pay long-term costs. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

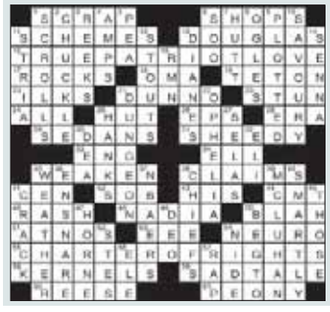
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. __ class (Misses the lecture)
6. TV __ (Watch shows on them)
10. Toy dog's fave place
13. Snip again
14. 'Silver' suffix
15. "__... __ ahead and try it already!" (Stop stalling, eat!)
16. Angered
17. Husk
18. Dix - Deux = ?
19. John Baird, Minister of __ __
22. Bed-and-Breakfast
23. Mr. Richie, "Hello" singer
24. Grateful __
27. "60 Minutes" network
30. Forever, practically
31. Time-saving abbr.
32. Waaay far back
37. Doofus
39. That extra amount on a bill
40. Ludicrous
41. Kraft Singles, basically ...but only one: 2 wds.
44. No __, ands or buts.
45. Poetic contraction
46. Piercing place
47. Big deals
48. Take to be true
51. Cleopatra's cobra
53. Place of commerce in early Canada: acr. + 2 wds.
58. U2's home
59. Ancient Egypt: Son of Ramses I
60. Once more
62. Jewish calendar month
63. Prude
64. Lead/tin alloy
65. "Losing My Religion" rockers
66. Labourer, in olde Anglo-Saxon times
67. Swamp plant

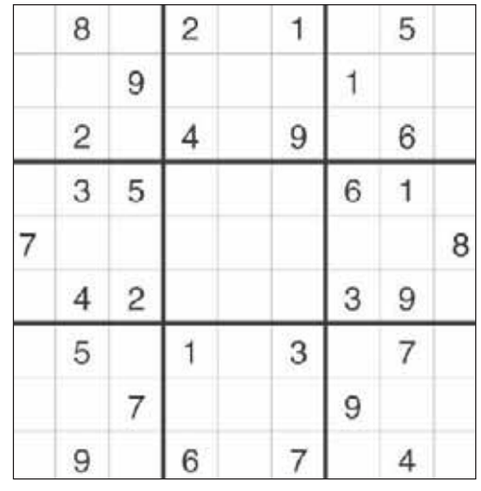
Down
1. Lanka's lead
2. Sawing cut
3. Flight-related UN Agency headquartered in Montreal [acronym]
4. Foul in odour
5. Jan __ (Dutch painter)
6. Loot
7. Yield, such as profit
8. Tribulation
9. Smartphone owner's auto-taken pics
10. Stand-up comic Mr. Anderson
11. No Doubt hit: "Just _ _ _ "
12. __ and pans
15. SNL alum Molly, star of "Superstar" (1999)
20. Price hike [abbr.]
21. Soccer, to Brits [var. sp.]
24. Son, e.g., on a family tree
25. Retro toy, __ A Sketch
26. Pine-in-the-heart for
28. Reckons
29. Sedimentary rock
32. Phony person
33. Iris family plant with sword-like leaves
34. Maraud
35. Content or data, briefly
36. Opening to 'pool' or 'pit'
38. Actress, Leighton __
42. All†together: 2 wds.
43. Rocky projection (Mountaineering challenge)
47. Highest orbital point
48. Put up with
49. "Buzz off!"
50. Utopias
52. Tiffs
53. Pick up on sound
54. The Jacksons tune: "Blame __ the Boogie": 2 wds.
55. Evening, fun-style
56. Partially eaten fish in a tin?
57. Plucked guitar string sound
61. Born, in bridal bios

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.



Yesterday's Sudoku

6	9	8	7	4	2	1	3	5
2	3	1	9	8	5	6	7	4
5	4	7	6	1	3	9	8	2
1	6	3	5	2	7	8	4	9
4	2	9	1	3	8	7	5	6
7	8	5	4	6	9	2	1	3
3	1	6	8	9	4	5	2	7
9	7	2	3	5	1	4	6	8
8	5	4	2	7	6	3	9	1

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22°/8°
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Friday
18°/9°
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CITY: **7.1**L/100 KM▼

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HWY: **5.6**L/100 KM
CITY: **8.7**L/100 KM▼

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SELLING PRICE: $21,700* SONATA GL AUTO. $4,000 PRICE ADJUSTMENTΩ, FEES, DELIVERY & DESTINATION INCLUDED. PLUS HST.

INCLUDES: AIR CONDITIONING • HEATED FRONT SEATS • AUXILIARY MP3/USB/iPOD® INPUT • SIRIUS XM® RADIO WITH BLUETOOTH® HANDS FREE PHONE SYSTEM • DUAL FRONT, SIDE & CURTAIN AIRBAGS

OWN IT FOR **$120** BI-WEEKLY WITH **0%†** FINANCING FOR **84** MONTHS + PAY 99¢/L UNTIL 2014*

NO MONEY DOWN

INCLUDES **$250** IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTSΩ

HWY: **7.7**L/100 KM
CITY: **10.4**L/100 KM▼

Limited model shown

2013 TUCSON

SELLING PRICE: $21,645* TUCSON L 5-SPEED MANUAL. $250 PRICE ADJUSTMENTΩ, FEES, DELIVERY & DESTINATION INCLUDED. PLUS HST.

INCLUDES: AIR CONDITIONING • EZ LANE CHANGE ASSIST • DOWNHILL BRAKE CONTROL AND HILLSTART ASSIST • REAR SPOILER • iPOD®/USB/MP3 AUXILIARY INPUT JACKS

OWN IT FOR **$119** BI-WEEKLY WITH **0%†** FINANCING FOR **84** MONTHS + PAY 99¢/L UNTIL 2014*

NO MONEY DOWN

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5 YEAR WARRANTY

5-year/100,000 km Comprehensive Limited Warranty††
5-year/100,000 km Powertrain Warranty
5-year/100,000 km Emission Warranty

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™The Hyundai names, logos, product names, feature names, images and slogans are trademarks owned by Hyundai Auto Canada Corp. †Finance offers available O.A.C. from Hyundai Financial Services based on a new 2013 Accent 4 Door L 6-Speed Manual/Elantra L 6-Speed Manual/Sonata GL Auto/Tucson L 5-Speed Manual with an annual finance rate of 0% for 84 months. Bi-weekly payments are $69/$79/$120/$119. No down payment required. Cost of Borrowing is $0. Finance offers include Delivery and Destination of $1,495/$1,495/$1,565/$1,760 fees, levies, and all applicable charges (excluding HST). Finance Offers exclude registration, insurance, PPSA and license fees. Delivery and destination charge includes freight, P.D.E., dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. Financing example: 2013 Elantra L 6-Speed Manual for $14,380 at 0% per annum equals $79 bi-weekly for 84 months for a total obligation of $14,380. Cash price is $14,380. Cost of Borrowing is $0. Example price includes Delivery and Destination of $1,495, fees, levies, and all applicable charges (excluding HST). Example price excludes registration, insurance, PPSA and license fees. Delivery and destination charge includes freight, P.D.E., dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. ▼Fuel consumption for 2013 Accent 4 Door L 6-Speed Manual (HWY 5.3L/100KM; City 7.1L/100KM)/ Elantra Sedan L 6-Speed Manual (HWY 5.2L/100KM; City 7.1L/100KM)/ Sonata GL Auto (HWY 5.6L/100KM; City 8.7L/100KM)/Tucson L 5-Speed Manual (HWY 7.7L/100KM; City 10.4L/100KM) are based on Energuide. Actual fuel efficiency may vary based on driving conditions and the addition of certain vehicle accessories. Fuel economy figures are used for comparison purposes only. ♦Price of models shown: 2013 Accent 4 Door GLS Auto/ Elantra Limited/ Sonata Limited/Tucson Limited AWD are $20,230/$24,930/$30,700/$34,245. Prices include Delivery and Destination charges of $1,495/$1,495/$1,565/$1,760, fees, levies, and all applicable charges (excluding HST). Prices exclude registration, insurance, PPSA and license fees. ΩPrice adjustments are calculated against the vehicle's starting price. Price adjustments of up to $2,500/$3,100/$4,000/$250 available on 2013 Accent 4 Door L 6-Speed Manual/Elantra L 6-Speed Manual/Sonata GL Auto/Tucson L 5-Speed Manual. Price adjustments applied before taxes. Offer cannot be combined or used in conjunction with any other available offers. Offer is non-transferable and cannot be assigned. No vehicle trade-in required. *Purchase, finance or lease an in-stock 2013 Accent/Elantra/Elantra Coupe/Elantra GT/Veloster/Genesis Coupe/Sonata/Sonata HEV/Santa Fe Sport/Santa Fe XL/Tucson/2012 Sonata HEV during the Double Savings Event and you will receive one $0.99 per litre Esso Price Privileges Fuel Card (including applicable taxes). The $0.99 per litre Esso Price Privileges Card is issued by Esso and is subject to the terms and conditions of the Esso Price Privileges Fuel Card agreement. Customers in the provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland & Labrador, Prince Edward Island (collectively, "Atlantic Provinces") and Quebec will receive a maximum benefit of $0.55 per litre in the event that gas prices increase above $1.54 during the card activation period. Customers in the provinces of Ontario and Manitoba will receive a maximum benefit of $0.50 per litre in the event that gas prices increase above $1.49 during the card activation period. Customers in the Atlantic Provinces, Quebec, Manitoba and Ontario will receive a minimum discount of $0.30 per litre in the event that gas prices decrease below $1.29 per litre in these provinces. All Fuel Cards expire on December 31st, 2013. Fuel cards are valid only at participating Esso retail locations (excluding the province of British Columbia) and are not redeemable for cash. Fuel Cards cannot be used in the province of British Columbia. Fuel Cards can only be used on Regular, Extra and Premium motor vehicle grade fuel purchases only. Price with Fuel Card of $0.99 per litre applies to Regular grade fuel only. Price with Fuel Card on Extra and Premium grade fuels are $1.12 and $1.18 per litre, respectively. Price Privileges Card must be used in combination with another form of payment accepted at Esso stations in Canada (excluding British Columbia) and is redeemable in-store only. Only one Price Privileges Card can be used per transaction. Based on Energuide combined fuel consumption rating for the 2013 Accent Auto (6.3L/100km)/Elantra Auto (6.3L/100km)/Elantra Coupe Auto (6.6L/100km)/Elantra GT Auto (6.6L/100km)/Veloster 1.6L Auto (6.3L/100km)/ Genesis Coupe 2.0L Auto (8.6L/100km)/Sonata 2.4L Auto (7.3L/100km)/Sonata HEV Auto (5.2L/100km)/Tucson 2.0L Auto (8.2L/100km)/Santa Fe Sport 2.4L FWD Auto (8.6L/100km)/2012 Sonata HEV Auto (5.3L/100km) and the combined fuel consumption rating for the 2013 Santa Fe XL 3.3L FWD (9.9L/100km) as determined by the Manufacturer as shown on www.hyundaicanada.com at 15,400km/year which is the yearly average driving distance as referenced by Transport Canada's Provincial Light Vehicle Fleet Statistics, 2011, minus one full tank of fuel provided at the time of delivery of 2013 Accent (43L), Elantra (48L), Elantra Coupe (50L), Elantra GT (50L), Veloster (50L), Genesis Coupe (65L), Sonata (70L), Sonata HEV (65L), Tucson (58L), Santa Fe Sport (66L), Santa Fe XL (71L), 2012 Sonata HEV (65L), this is equivalent to $0.99 per litre gas up to a total of 725 Litres (2013 Accent/Elantra/Elantra Coupe/Elantra GT/Veloster), 800 Litres (2013 Sonata/2013 Sonata HEV/2012 Sonata HEV) and 1,000 Litres (2013 Genesis Coupe/Tucson/Santa Fe Sport/Santa Fe XL). Actual fuel efficiency may vary based on driving conditions and the addition of certain vehicle accessories. Fuel economy figures are used for comparison purposes only. ▲Government 5-Star Safety Ratings are part of the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA's) New Car Assessment Program (www.SaferCar.gov). †Ω*♦Offers available for a limited time, and subject to change or cancellation without notice. See dealer for complete details. Dealer may sell for less. Inventory is limited, dealer order may be required. ††Hyundai's Comprehensive Limited Warranty coverage covers most vehicle components against defects in workmanship under normal use and maintenance conditions.

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